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Hafa Adai!

$1 Saipan Tribune

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Cop whose gun injured minor pleads guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The police officer whose service firearm was used in the shooting of a minor pleaded guilty to improperly storing a firearm during his jury trial yesterday.

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Police officer Raymond Lizama Saralu is surrounded by family members and friends as he says his goodbyes before he is transported to the Department of Corrections for booking.

Former Saipan HS band teacher pleads guilty to possessing child pornography

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Frahm

Former Saipan high school band teacher David Matthew Frahm has pleaded guilty before a court in Malaysia to possession of child pornography.

Frahm, who was arrested in Malaysia back in February for child pornography charges and sexual harassment charges, pleaded guilty yesterday to amended charges; specifically possessing child pornography.

According to international media outlets, the charge carries

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) presides over a special session last Thursday where many House members expressed their views on the impending closure of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Propst: Most disappointing about Hyatt closure is no one reached out to CNMI leaders

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) said the most disappointing part about the impending closure of Hyatt Regency Saipan is that no one reached out to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and the Legislature.

Propst shared his views about Hyatt Regency Saipan's announcement to permanently close on June 30, 2024 during the House of Representatives special session last Thursday.

He said Palacios told them that he learned about the Hyatt's impending closure upon reading

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No date yet on continuation of BOOST hearings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Yumul

The House of Representatives special committee that is investigating the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Program, or BOOST Program, has yet to decide as to when to continue their hearing.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry yesterday, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-Related Funding,

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INSIDE

LOCAL
This World Tuna Day, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia reflects on the sustainable practices that help preserve our oceans and the species they sustain.
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BUSINESS
In keeping with the ongoing celebration of Atkins Kroll's 110th anniversary, Atkins Kroll and BMW Group Asia proudly announced their collaboration to support initiatives around the Guam PGA Junior League event on April 27, 2024.
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LIFE & STYLE
The New York Times and *The Washington Post* were awarded three Pulitzer Prizes apiece on Monday for work in 2023 that dealt with everything from the war in Gaza to gun violence, and The Associated Press won in the feature photography category for coverage of global migration to the U.S.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

UCEDD, One Marianas push for better assistance for people with disabilities

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Representing 38 agencies, dozens of frontliners and civil servants took part in the Emergency Management Functional Access Disability Awareness Training at the Kagman Community Center last April 25.

It's an effort to train first responders and community members to provide efficient service to help those with special needs in case of a natural disaster; and according to University Center in Excellence for Developmental Disabilities' Eileen Babauta it's an effort they and their partners take seriously.

Currently in case of a disaster, Babauta said there are not a lot of protocols or universal strategies placed in bringing efficient help for community members with developmental disabilities.

She actually was dismayed to hear personal stories from several individuals with special needs that they were stuck in their homes during natural disasters like Yutu and Sodelour and were unable to get help post-disaster, especially when they lived in isolated locations.

"Coming back home from Seattle, Washington I didn't experience Yutu, I didn't experience COVID-19 here, it was all stateside, but I was traveling in the midst of all of that, and I did recognize that there was a lack of support for our people with disabilities. And as I returned home, and started working, I started hearing these stories, and I would ask them 'what happened with you during these times?' and that they would say that they couldn't get to the hospital, they couldn't get to stores, they couldn't get to where they needed to go, because the [Commonwealth Office Transit Authority] vans were used for something else. So, it was like they prioritized another project, other than helping our people with developmental disabilities. And so, for me that was concerning."

Babauta added that it became really apparent that all first responders needed more training in either the American Sign Language, accessibility, and assistive technology to be able to help with communicating with people with disabilities during disasters or emergencies.

To address these needs, Babauta shared that UCEDD, along with their partners like One Marianas, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., and members of the Division of Youth Services began working on bringing special training to CNMI frontliners and community servants.

The effort resulted in the most recent Emergency Management Functional Access Disability Awareness Training that took place from April 25 to 26 at the Kagman Community Center and the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

"This training is called the Emergency Management Function and Access Disability Awareness Training and it focused on the target audience, which are first responders, stakeholders, interested community members, and our partners. It deals a lot with providing training on accessibility functions and access based on the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as introducing ASL."

Niagara University of Emergency Management and Disability Awareness Training's Vicky Davidson specially flew in for the training and during her two days on island taught various aspects of disability awareness, communication strategies, accessibility considerations, and best practices for providing assistance to individuals with diverse needs.

With the tight funding and the high cost to send representatives for training, Babauta said it made more sense to fly Davidson out to Saipan for the sessions.

"I felt that instead of one person going to the EMDAT training, best to bring a trainer here, and train X amount of people who are able to show up."

Babauta shared that she was pleased and grateful to see the response from government agencies, frontliners, and emergency teams that wanted to be a part of the training and learn how to be more inclusive and provide better access for those with special needs especially in crisis.

The sessions were packed to the brim, with representatives from 38 agencies across the CNMI and even some individuals from Guam and Hawaii joining.

Babauta said the work isn't done yet and they are already planning to have several more sessions to better equip frontliners and civil servants to help those with special needs efficiently.

"In times of crisis, every second counts, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that no member of our community is left behind. By enhancing our understanding of disability awareness and emergency management techniques, we not only fulfill our duty to serve and protect but also uphold the principles of inclusivity and accessibility that are at the heart of our society."

Junseo Kim wins 2024 Congressional Art Competition

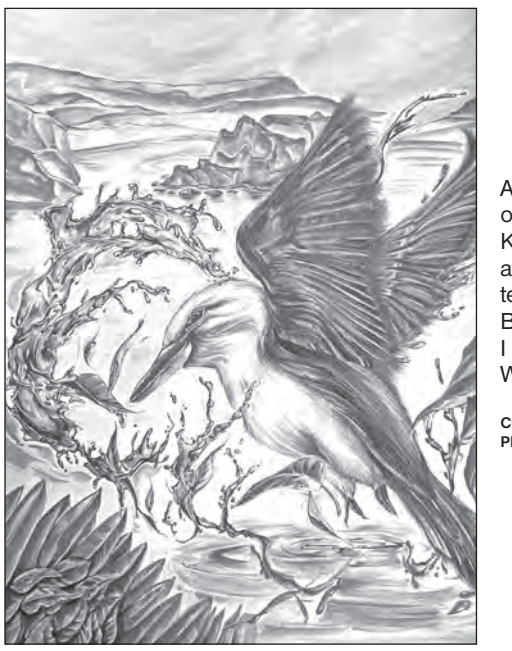
Junseo Kim of Saipan International School is the Marianas winner of the 2024 Congressional Art Competition for the second straight year, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) announced yesterday. A panel of local artists chose Kim's work from among 28 entries submitted by Northern Marianas high school students for the annual competition.

"Congratulations to Mr. Kim for winning the Congressional Art Competition again this year," said Sablan. "We have many talented student artists in the Marianas, so to win twice is no easy feat."

Sablan thanked the panel of artists, who volunteered their time to review and evaluate the entries, and all the students who took part in the annual competition.He also congratulated Kim's SIS art teacher, Amie McRoberts, for her student's work.

Kim describes his piece, titled "Shelter, Paradise, Beauty: Where I Grew New Wings," as depicting "a Mariana kingfisher with background of Bird Island, which symbolizes the unique biodiversity of the island but also the strength and resilience of its flora and fauna."

Now, the watercolor, pencil, and colored pencil artwork will be displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol; and Kim will be invited to this year's Congressional Art Competition National Reception in Washington, D.C.



Attached photo of Junseo Kim's winning artwork, "Shelter, Paradise, Beauty: Where I Grew New Wings."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I look forward to seeing Junseo's work hanging at the Capitol, alongside the winning art of other talented young people from across our nation," Sablan said. "The student artists' display is a highlight for the tens of thousands of visitors, who come here every year."

Members of Congress host the Congressional Art Competition for high school students in their districts. Students can submit artwork using a variety of media, such as oil, charcoal, watercolors, pencils, photographs, collages, prints, or computer-generated art. This is the sixteenth year that students from the Northern Mariana Islands have been able to participate in the Congressional Art Competition. ***(PR)***

EPA announces $17.1M for CNMI lead pipe replacement to advance safe drinking water

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced $17,050,000 from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help the CNMI identify and replace lead service lines, preventing exposure to lead in drinking water. Lead can cause a range of severe health impacts, including irreversible harm to brain development in children. President Biden has committed to replacing every lead pipe in the country to protect children and families. The investment, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and available through EPA's successful Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, takes another major step to advance this work and environmental justice and bolsters the Administration's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan and Get the Lead Out Initiative.

Working collaboratively, the EPA and CNMI are advancing the President's Justice40 Initiative to ensure that 40% of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities, including those overburdened by lead exposure and pollution. Lead exposure disproportionately affects communities of color and low-income communities. To date, the total funding announced through this program is expected to replace up to 1.7 million lead pipes nationwide, securing clean drinking water for countless families.

"Every single person living in CNMI deserves access to clean, safe drinking water and a guarantee that they and their loved ones will be protected from lead contamination," said Martha Guzman, EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator. "Thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is investing an unprecedented amount of funding to replace these harmful lead service lines, with communities at the greatest risk of lead poisoning prioritized."

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests $15 billion to identify and replace lead service lines. The law mandates that 49% of funds provided through the DWSRF General Supplemental Funding and DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement Funding must be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities, a crucial investment for communities that have been underinvested in for too long. EPA projects a national total of 9 million lead service lines across the country, based on data collected from the updated 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The funding announced today will be explicitly provided for lead service line identification and replacement. It will help every state and territory fund projects to remove lead pipes and reduce exposure to lead from drinking water.

The Lead Service Line-specific formula used to allot these funds allows states to receive financial assistance commensurate with their need as soon as possible, furthering public health protection nationwide. The formula and allotments are based on need—meaning that states with more projected lead service lines receive proportionally more funding.

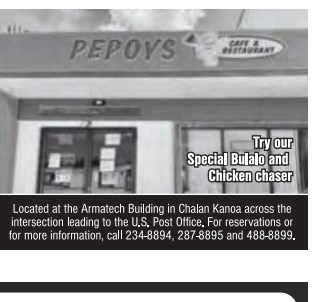
Alongside the funding announced, EPA is also releasing a new memorandum that clarifies how states can use this and other funding to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water most effectively. Additionally, EPA has developed new outreach documents to help water systems educate their customers on drinking water issues, health impacts of lead exposure, service line ownership, and how customers can support identifying potential lead service lines in their homes.

To view stories about how the unpreceded investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are transforming communities across the country, visit EPA's Investing in America's Water Infrastructure Story Map. To read about some projects underway, see EPA's recently released Quarterly Report on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funded Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF projects and explore the State Revolving Funds Public Portal.

The recent allotments are based on EPA's updated 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, which includes an assessment of newly submitted information. This is the best available data collected and assessed on service line materials in the United States. Later this summer, EPA will release an addendum to the 7th DWINSA Report to Congress, including the updated lead service line projections. EPA anticipates initiating data collection, consisting of information on lead service lines, for the 8th DWINSA in 2025.

For more information, including state-by-state allotment of 2024 funding and a breakdown of EPA's lead Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, please visit EPA's Drinking Water website.

Learn more about EPA's Pacific Southwest Region here, and visit our Instagram, Facebook, and X. ***(PR)***



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

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Palacios appoints ex-Rota DCCA resident director Maratita to MVA board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed former Rota Department of Community and Cultural Affairs resident director Dwayne L. Maratita to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

If confirmed by the Senate, Maratita will represent Rota to serve the remaining term vacated by Agita T. Quitugua, which will expire on March 23, 2026.

Palacios notified Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last week that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that Maratita's membership on the MVA board is critical and that his appointment will ensure consistency and continuity in fulfilling MVA's goals and objectives.

The governor said the statutory restriction of Public Law 11-15 which prohibits government employees from serving as board members of the MVA, places an undue burden as it limits the pool of otherwise qualified potential appointees from Rota.

Accordingly, Palacios said, he is waiving such restriction as authorized by the Commonwealth Code.

Maratita is currently one of the grant writers for Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog's office.

Palacios informed Maratita that he and Apatang are confident that he will devote time and efforts to fostering a sustainable tourism industry.

Bill seeks to appropriate $51K for TCGCC's personnel, operations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) has filed a local bill that will appropriate $51,017 generated from the local revenue for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

San Nicolas stated in House Local Bill 23-48 that pursuant to funds allocated to the Second Senatorial District from local revenue, the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation appropriates $51,017 of the local revenues to the TCGCC's personnel and operations.

He said the expenditure authority for funds shall be the chairman of the TCGCC.

San Nicolas said the certification of funds was prepared on April 16, 2024, and was reviewed and confirmed by the Tinian Municipal treasurer.

He said funds appropriated under this bill "shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose and notwithstanding any provision of law, all funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation(s)."

HYATT

From page 1

it in the paper.

Propst said Apatang, House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and all House members found out the same upon reading it in the paper.

The House floor leader said the Hotel Association of the NMI did not ever contact Palacios and Apatang to inform them that Hyatt is on the verge of closing now and what they should do.

"If that had happened, the governor would have called for an emergency meeting. We will have talked about it and we will call HANMI and other agencies. Guys, this is what's happening. No notice!" Propst said.

The House floor leader said it is great sadness that Hyatt closed the doors.

"It is shocking and it's sudden. And it's saddening and surprising. I think those are common words that have been used," he said.

Propst said there's a lot of history and memory for everyone in the House and all have had such special wonderful memories with the Hyatt Regency.

He said their hearts go out to the employees who are losing their jobs and they are going to have to look for new jobs and new opportunities after spending and dedicating so much of their life to the Hyatt.

"It's sad, I'm deeply sad and hurt. But I think we have to look at the bigger picture here and we have to look at what's been at play," Propst said.

He noted that 400,000 Japanese tourists are anticipated to travel to Guam this fiscal year, at a time when the yen is weak and they are not supposed to be travelling anymore.

The floor leader said, however, the CNMI received so far in this fiscal year only 8,610 Japanese tourists.

"It's a fraction, it's a tiny fraction of what Guam is receiving," he said.

Propst said the statistics matter as Guam is literally 100 miles away, a 25-minute flight from Saipan.

"They are killing us! Japanese are flocking there. Why are they no longer coming to Saipan, the CNMI? That's the billion-dollar question. That's what we need to be asking ourselves," Propst said.

He said that last Wednesday they had the Marianas Working Group, the president and directors of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and several House colleagues sitting in the House chamber for three hours talking about Hyatt and many other things.

Propst said what some of the hotel managers and owners have discussed with him and his colleagues, they repeatedly stated that there is nothing to do here for a tourist after the sun goes down after 6pm.

He said in Guam, they have the Tumon Bay, where a lot of things are going on actively at night that welcome tourists.

"What do we have going on at the Paseo [de Marianas] and around Garapan? What activities do we have in our villages that are offered to our tourists?" Propst said.

He said the CNMI has diving sites, spectacular beaches, and the warmth and love from the people.

Propst said these are great things, but it's not enough to bring the tourists back to the CNMI.

He said CNMI leaders are getting slammed because they're being told that they are not doing enough since the CNMI is supposed to pivot away from Chinese tourists.

Propst noted that tourists from the People's Republic of China can come into the CNMI right now without a visa, but they can't do the same in Guam.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COP

From page 1

Yesterday, during the jury trial for officer Raymond Lizama Saralu, Chief Criminal Prosecutor Chester Hinds moved to amend the information filed against Saralu and dismissed five of the six storage of firearm charges filed against him.

After the prosecution amended the information, Saralu openly pleaded guilty to one count of storage of firearms where a child was injured.

An open plea essentially means there is no agreement between the parties in regard to sentencing. Rather, an open plea gives the court the discretion to impose either the maximum or minimum sentence carried by the charge, as well as other conditions.

In this case, Saralu faces a possible sentence of five years, a $5,000 fine, or more.

After Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho accepted Saralu's plea, defense counsel Emily Thomsen requested that her client remain out of custody pending sentencing.

However, Camacho denied the request and ordered that the defendant be immediately transported to the Department of Corrections for booking so he can start serving time.

"The sooner you're in, the sooner you're out. Let me be honest, you're going to be doing some time. This way, you will get credit for time served," Camacho said.

Saralu's sentencing is set for July 17 at 10am before Camacho.

Jury trial

Saralu was not even supposed to proceed with a jury trial as during a hearing last week, a plea agreement was brought before the court.

Saipan Tribune learned that the initial plea agreement was not accepted by the court.

Then, last Monday, the government filed a request for leave to amend information and notice of another plea agreement late last Monday afternoon (so to not proceed with a lengthy jury selection process).

However, the court said it is not prudent to conduct a change of plea hearing before all the potential jurors on the morning of the jury trial set for May 7 on the possibility that the defendant withdraws his plea, members of the victim's family lodge objections against the plea agreement, or the court rejects the plea agreement.

Because of this, Camacho ruled that a change of plea hearing be held after the jury trial selection process is completed.

"Therefore, to avoid having the potential jurors hearing the discussions of the plea on the morning of the jury trial, the jury selection shall go forth. After the jury has been selected, and outside the presence of the jury and with the rest of the potential jurors dismissed, the court will take up the change of plea. The exact time of the change of plea hearing will depend on when the jury has been selected, empaneled, and asked to wait in the jury room," the court ordered.

After Saralu entered his guilty plea, all selected jurors were called back and dismissed.

According to the amended information filed against Saralu, on or about May 21, 2023, Saralu, did unlawfully, keep a firearm [unsecured] within a residence, a place of business, or on private land.

"Defendant failed to secure a firearm identified as a Glock 19 Gen5 9mm—Serial #BXYD674 to ensure that unauthorized persons did not have access to it in his dwelling, nor was it disabled with trigger locks, locked in a container, carried on the person of an individual over the age of 21; or the firearm is under the immediate control of a person who is a law enforcement officer, in which the unsecured government issued firearm did harm and cause serious bodily injuries to the minor victim," said the information.

FORMER

From page 1

a maximum sentence of three years, a fine, or both.

In addition, Frahm has pleaded not guilty to the sexual harassment charges filed against him after allegedly producing sexual material when he allegedly filmed a minor showering in her home.

Frahm is also facing overstaying charges for overstaying over 1,380 days.

Last month, the U.S. government filed a superseding indictment in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against Frahm after he was arrested in Malaysia.

Frahm allegedly left the CNMI sometime before or after he was charged with one count of attempted sexual exploitation of a child back in 2023.

Following his arrest in Malaysia, assistant U.S.attorney Eric O'Malley filed a superseding indictment against Frahm, adding one count of possession of child pornography and one count of engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places. That's on top of the existing charge of attempted sexual exploitation of a child.

The superseding indictment replaces the indictment issued last September 2023.

In the "attempted sexual exploitation of a child" charge, the indictment states that Frahm attempted to take a photo of a minor while using the toilet at the high school he worked for, Marianas High School, back in March 2019.

As for the one count of possession of child pornography, Frahm was allegedly caught in March 2019 of possessing a computer file that depicted a minor child engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment states that the image was created in Ukraine and distributed via the internet.

For the one count of illicit sexual conduct in foreign places, Frahm was allegedly caught producing child pornography in Malaysia.

BOOST

From page 1

said there is no specific date as to when to resume the hearing because they are preparing for the government's 2025 fiscal year budget.

"None for now," said Yumul, who also chairs the House Ways and Means Committee that is in charge of the budget legislation.

The last special committee meeting was held last March 29 when the members agreed to summon former Department of Commerce's Economic Development director Jesus Taisague and others who received BOOST monies, to testify at a later date to be set by Yumul.

The committee agreed to authorize Yumul to issue subpoenas to Taisague, "Alexandria" Yuan Ying, and Kevin C. Guerrero to testify.

At the March 29 meeting, the members also voted "yes" to two motions to find former Department of Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig in contempt.

During last Thursday's House special session, 18 House members voted "yes" to adopt the special committee's report that finds instances of contempt to the House by majority vote.

Reps. Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan) and Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) voted "no" to the motion to adopt the special committee report.

The special committee directs House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) to certify the contempt statement to the CNMI Attorney General for the prosecution of former Finance secretary Atalig in the Superior Court.

All persons who testified before the committee upon the latter's subpoena were found in contempt for not responding to most questions about the BOOST Program, upon the advice of their lawyers to invoke their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

USCG Forces Micronesia celebrates World Tuna Day with sustainable fishing, community engagement

This World Tuna Day, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia reflect on the sustainable practices that help preserve our oceans and the species they sustain. The crew aboard the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) recently embraced the rich marine life and cultural heritage of the CNMI, notably on Pagan Island.

During a liberty break from patrolling the Northern Marianas, they engaged in recreational fishing. They caught tuna using sustainable rod-and-reel methods. This activity wasn't merely about fishing; it was about forging a deep connection with the ocean and reflecting on the importance of respecting our marine resources.

"As someone who grew up in the Pacific, the ocean has always been a part of who I am. Being able to serve and protect these waters and islands is important to me. Each patrol we go on, whether it's a rescue or just being present in the community, is a chance to give back to the ocean and lands that give us so much. Our work ensures the safety and health of our Pacific family," said Petty Officer 1st Class Ikaika Ruiz.

Why focus on tuna?

Tuna is crucial for food security, nutrition, and the global economy, yet overfishing and illegal fishing threaten their populations worldwide. On World Tuna Day, USCG advocates for sustainable fishing and collaborative measures among agencies and governments to ensure future generations can enjoy these incredible fish.

Imagine a line of fully loaded cargo ships stretching across the horizon. According to the International Seafood Sustainability Association, in 2021, the total catch of major commercial tuna stocks in the Pacific Ocean was 4.8 million tons, roughly equivalent to the combined weight of about 91 fully laden *Titanics*. This immense figure underscores the massive scale of the tuna fishing industry and its global significance. For comparison, imagine an airfield of fully loaded jumbo jets. According to NOAA, in 2022, U.S. commercial landings of Pacific bluefin was 800,000 lbs. and albacore tuna was 16 million lbs. Combined, they equate to the weight of about 19 Boeing 747s, each fully loaded with passengers and luggage. This vast amount highlights the scale of the U.S. fishing industry and the significant role these fish play in our economy and food supply.

Many are unaware that the tuna on their plates, celebrated as a healthy protein source, embarks on a complex journey across the globe—often caught in the Pacific by a multinational crew aboard a vessel flagged from one country, fishing on the high seas or within another country's exclusive economic zone, before being transferred to yet another ship or port in a different country for processing and packaging. This intricate chain of custody underscores the global nature of our seafood supply and highlights the formidable challenges we face in combating illegal fishing.

Engaging with local communities

For nearly eight decades, the U.S. Coast Guard's presence in the Northern Mariana Islands has been one of partnership and stewardship of the marine environment. Our crews are committed to being a positive force, respecting local traditions with a reasonable footprint. USCG's presence supports anti-illegal fishing efforts, protecting the stocks locals depend on for their livelihoods. Everything on the ocean is intertwined, as are our missions.

The U.S. Coast Guard is deeply committed to supporting our Marianas and regional partners and navigating the unique challenges of the local fishing community. As commercial fishing declined due to economic, environmental, and regulatory factors, our role now emphasizes sustainability and community support. They actively enforce safety for recreational activities, fishing regulations, and conservation efforts, protecting marine biodiversity while preserving the cultural and subsistence practices that enrich the local community. This effort includes patrolling marine protected areas, such as in the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Monument, to safeguard these vital ecosystems.

"During our recent patrols in the Marianas, we transported a U.S. Fish and Wildlife conservation officer, further solidifying our commitment to cooperation and protecting the unique ecosystems of this region. This collaboration enhances our ability to enforce conservation regulations effectively, ensuring the sustainability of our marine environments vital to the community's livelihood and deep-seated connection to the sea. The operations in the CNMI are a reminder of why we do what we do—it's about making a real difference in the lives of those in remote locations who rely on our readiness and care," said Lt. Ray Cerrato, commanding officer of *Oliver Henry*.

USCG

The crew of the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) patrol Marianas National Monument at Farallon, CNMI, on April 23, 2024. They also responded to a call for help from those on Pagan. The crew provided crucial assistance to two individuals who had been living on the islands without reliable communication for three months and limited supplies, transporting one to Saipan.

In addition to their maritime missions, the USCGC *Oliver Henry* crew recently responded to a call for help from those on Pagan. The crew provided crucial assistance to two individuals who had been without reliable communication for three months. After discovering their radio was inoperable and concerned about an impending water shortage due to an expected increase in population, our team supplied potable water and attempted to repair the communication equipment. To ensure continued support, one man was transported to Saipan to coordinate repairs and logistics directly with the Northern Marianas mayor.

Over the last 18 months, their NMI efforts extended beyond patrolling. Following Typhoon Mawar in June 2023, the U.S. Coast Guard played a vital role in recovery efforts, ensuring the safe reopening of ports and clearing navigation hazards in Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. The USCG also actively participated in community and capacity-building initiatives, including expert exchanges with local agencies to enhance maritime safety and security capabilities.

The USCG played an essential role in ensuring the health and safety of individuals across the Pacific, particularly on remote islands like Alamagan. In May 2023, the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) crew demonstrated this commitment by conducting a critical medical evacuation. With support from the CNMI Department of Fire and EMS, they successfully evacuated a 30-year-old man with severe head and neck injuries from Alamagan Island to Saipan for urgent medical care. This operation showcased their readiness and capability to provide lifesaving assistance in isolated locations. It emphasized their ongoing dedication to the well-being of the communities within the Northern Mariana Islands.

"As a culinary specialist, I take pride in nourishing our crew, but as an EMT, my role expands to ensure their well-being and that of others in urgent times. It was intense the night we responded to the medical emergency on Alamagan, pulling up to that challenging volcanic beach. Hiking in the dark to stabilize a man in need and ensuring his safe transport to higher care was a good reminder of our critical impact. It's moments like these that reinforce the importance of our presence here—being ready to help others, no matter the obstacles," said Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Pablo, a son of Guam.

The service's activities also extend to facilitating transportation and support for supplies and local officials. The USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) and USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) crews both transported the mayor of the Northern Islands of CNMI to visit constituents, highlighting support for community engagement and governance in these remote areas.

"From Guam to the Northern Marianas and further into the Pacific, our culture runs deep in respect for land and water. This respect drives my passion for the Coast Guard's mission—ensuring that we protect these precious resources and strengthen the fabric of the communities we serve," said Petty Officer 1st Class Ben Laguana, a son of Guam.

These actions underscore the depth of USCG's commitment to the Marianas—not just in safeguarding maritime territories but also in supporting the resilience and well-being of the island communities. To mark World Tuna Day, USCG celebrates these partnerships and shared dedication to sustainable marine resource management.

A day of awareness and advocacy

As they share this story of camaraderie and conservation, USCG Forces Micronesia aims to inspire others to consider where their seafood comes from and to choose sustainably sourced tuna. USCG celebrates World Tuna Day by committing to practices that help marine life thrive, ensuring healthy oceans for decades to come.

"Our missions extend far beyond mere operations; they are deeply woven into the fabric of the communities we serve and resonate with our global responsibilities as a nation. From our members who hold familial and cultural ties to the region to our legacy of service that spans generations, each action we undertake is infused with a sense of duty to the people of the Pacific. Our commitment to peace, safety, security, and environmental stewardship of the Marianas underscores our broader pledge to uphold international maritime standards and protect shared global marine resources," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-013	CDBG-DR Planning & Support Program Manager (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00 Per annum	April 24, 2024	May 9, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Atkins Kroll #2024-1363

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request to amend the text of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013: Atkins Kroll is requesting for such change to allow **Automobile Sales and Services in the Beach Road zoning district.** This district includes all lots situated east of and abutting Beach Road, extending from the intersection of Beach Road and Gualo Rai Road, and southward to the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Msgr. Guerrero.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **June 6th, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 5th, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 92

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

More incoherence from the Biden White House

Democrats insist they're committed to promoting "affordable" housing. Yet virtually every policy they propose in that regard actually makes housing more expensive.

In March, the White House issued a news release explaining, "President (Joe) Biden believes housing costs are too high, and significant investments are needed to address the large shortage of affordable homes inherited from his predecessor and that has been growing for more than a decade."

Six weeks later, the administration unveiled new energy regulations for home construction that could add up to $30,000 to the price of a new home.

The incoherence is staggering.

The new regulations come courtesy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and apply to homes financed through Federal Housing Administration programs. The mandates—as keen observers might expect—represent another effort to strong-arm developers into making homes more energy efficient under the guise of addressing global warming.

Yet doing so comes with high upfront costs. HUD acknowledges that the rules will raise the purchase price of a single family home by more than $7,200. But the financial pain will increase drastically for the vast majority of buyers who finance their purchase over 30 years, particularly with interest rates soaring thanks to the president's previous market interventions.

Supporters of the mandates argue that homebuyers will save in the long run thanks to more energy-efficient dwellings and that the green handouts in the Inflation Reduction Act will subsidize the transition. But the subsidies—read: taxpayer wealth transfers—cover only a portion of the costs. And saving money years down the road will be of little solace to those who might be priced out of a new home thanks to the regulations. The National Association of Home Builders estimates it would take 90 years for a buyer to recover the original costs.

It's also worth noting that Mr. Biden's war on fossil fuels and his bevy of new climate regulations have driven energy costs upward.

"This ill-conceived policy will also act as a deterrent to new construction at a time when the nation desperately needs to boost its housing supply to lower shelter inflation costs," the homebuilders association argues. "Moreover, it is in direct conflict with the current energy codes in the majority of jurisdictions around the country."

Here in Nevada, legislative Democrats and progressive activists claim to be champions of "affordable" housing but offer nothing more than warmed over rent-control proposals or developer mandates—both of which would make things only worse.

This isn't rocket science.

If you're arguing for more burdens on landlords or builders, you're part of the problem.

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Whoa!! son...the college you want to go to just increased their tuition to $90,000 a year! you better look for another school!
Don't worry, Dad! President Biden's bailout will pay for it!
COLLEGE TUITIONS SKYROCKETING
BIDEN'S LATEST STUDENT LOAN forgiveness totals $153 Billion
©2024 JAMBLE KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/SNAKS

I once lived in my car and can't fathom criminalizing homelessness

By BRIAN RAMIAN
Los Angeles Times

Brian Ramian is a writer who works in the film and hospitality industries.

I've been homeless. Twice.

I faced a dilemma in those situations that more than 650,000 Americans experience on any given day: "Where am I going to sleep tonight?"

The legal battles over criminalizing homelessness seem completely disconnected from that reality. It's a feeling I will never forget.

In 2013, after my $2,500-a-month lease expired, I was looking for a home in Santa Monica. The previous lease was not affordable; I needed something more in a single dad's budget. And I needed space for my two preteens when they were with me.

To make matters worse, my $6,000-a-month summer job at the Lobster restaurant vanished in November when I suddenly went from seven shifts a week to zero and being "on call."

First I subletted a co-worker's Venice Beach apartment for a month, and then my sister told me I could stay in the two-bedroom apartment she was vacating, which had a month left on the lease and was already paid. Perfect.

I slept like a baby in my new place that night.

That would be the last good night's sleep I would have for a long time, because the next day at 8 p.m. my sister announced I must vacate my new home—effective immediately. Landlord's rules. Turns out, I was not on the lease and had no right to be there. If I stayed, the cops would be knocking on the door. I didn't want any trouble for my sister, so I grabbed my duffel bag, pillow and blanket.

"Where am I going to sleep?" I asked my sister rhetorically.

I looked around in my Toyota 4Runner. There was enough room that I could stretch out in the car for the night.

And it occurred to me that with my 24 Hour Fitness membership, I'd have access to bathroom and shower facilities the following morning. I showered and showed up for my job freshly dressed. My co-workers and boss were none the wiser. They could never tell I slept in my vehicle the previous night.

I found a job making $2,000 a month—a third of my previous earnings, but I was eating and seeing my children regularly and paying my child support. That's one responsibility I vowed never to be late for.

I crunched some monthly numbers: With child support at $850, a 10x10 unit at Public Storage housing my belongings for $120, car insurance at $80, gas to and from work and to see the kids at roughly $300, plus a hotel or Airbnb every other weekend allowing me to maintain my dad duties at $400, cellphone was $100—that left $150 for food for the month. Gym was already paid for the year. Car was paid off.

Living in my 4Runner became a viable option. Being a loner by nature who didn't want to spend time with anyone except my kids, I made an impulsive but informed decision. I decided to sleep in the car for a month. That month turned into 18.

Is your co-worker sleeping in their car? You may never know. I had three jobs in the time I lived out of my car. Good jobs, too—serving $100 steaks and $1,000 bottles of Cabernet. No one ever knew. During that time, I found a job at a restaurant making $5,000 a month. Yet I remained in the Toyota. It was what I needed at the time to become the healed and whole father I am today.

Some folks need it because they don't have any better option. I believe that choice is a person's right to make. A majority of Los Angeles County's 70,000 unhoused residents live in cars, vans or RVs.

If you lost your employment and medical benefits right now, would you have enough money in your bank to pay your inflated L.A. rent for even one month? Even those who can say "yes" might recall a time when they were not on such sure footing. It's all too easy for many people to fall into homelessness, and then it's often hard to escape. I was fortunate.

If Santa Monica police had knocked on my window any of those months I was tucked in my Toyota at Ocean Park and 21st and arrested me, I'd have a criminal record. That could have made it impossible to regain my job and income, pay child support, be eligible for certain housing. I was lucky not to end up with a criminal record.

I was also lucky to have a job history and contacts to help me gain new and better employment.

But I was close enough to being unlucky to have some empathy for the individuals still sleeping in their cars, in city parks or on the Venice boardwalk. For me, sleeping in my car was a choice; for many it's a last resort. They shouldn't be arrested for running out of options.

2024 isn't 1968: University protesters need more clarity about their goals

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.

As someone who remembers when Columbia University students took over Hamilton Hall 56 years ago, let me say that 2024 is not 1968.

Back then, our whole country was engaged in debate over the justice of a Vietnam War that involved tens of thousands of American troops. Today, students are setting up tent encampments to protest a war that is not ours, but where U.S. weaponry is being used to kill thousands of Palestinian women and children—after Hamas murdered and kidnapped about 1,200 Israeli civilians.

Today's cause is far murkier, since some of the demonstrators are "anti-Zionist," which can be seen as wanting an end to the Jewish state. Some are also pro-Hamas, ignoring that terrorist group's murderous pledge to kill all Israeli Jews.

But many other protesters—understandably aroused by videos of starving, maimed, or dying Gazan children—aren't thinking that far ahead. They want their universities' endowment funds to divest from U.S. companies involved in sales of weapons to Israel that accelerate civilian deaths.

So are the universities justified in calling in the cops? Are the demonstrators current or future antisemites? Or have they opened a debate that even strong supporters of Israel ignore at their peril?

Here are four points that lay out my thinking. Feel free to email me your thoughts.

Why only Gaza?

It stuns, but does not surprise me, that student concern over civilian deaths and starvation does not extend to Vladimir Putin's relentless and deliberate bombing of Ukraine's schools, hospitals, markets, churches, and apartment complexes. This Russian terrorist campaign has turned dozens of Ukrainian villages, towns, and cities into ash and surpassed Israel's destruction in Gaza many times over. The student outrage also ignores the massive and terrible civilian slaughter ongoing in Sudan, especially in Darfur.

I've concluded, after much reading, online videos, and talking with friends' children and grandchildren at various universities, that the draw of the Israel-Hamas conflict is not necessarily antisemitic. It attracts many students who view it as the last white colonial project, where white people kill brown people.

Never mind that half of Israelis are brown or Black, having fled discrimination in Arab or African countries, and many of the rest are descendants of Holocaust survivors. And never mind that pre-1967 Israel was recognized by the United Nations. To undo its statehood by force (as Putin is trying to do to Ukraine) would delegitimize the borders of countless other post-World War II states.

But leaving those inconvenient realities aside, the colonial analogy has gained traction after negotiations failed over establishing a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza (virtually all of whose borders and economy are still controlled by Israel). Now that peace talks are dead, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is dominated by right wingers who want Israel to annex the West Bank and Gaza, so the colonial analogy becomes more attractive to many students.

Out of that analogy comes the slogan, "from the river to the sea," which has been projected onto buildings and shouted by many students on and off campus. This means one Palestinian Arab state that would include Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Many demonstrators and key student organizing groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine, along with Jewish Voices for Peace, call themselves "anti-Zionist," meaning they oppose the existence of the Jewish state. This cannot help but unnerve Jewish students, whether or not they have relatives in Israel.

What does anti-Zionism mean?

I've heard students insist that theirs is only a search for justice, with equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis within one state. But no one has yet explained to me how 7 million Jews would be convinced, short of destruction, to dismantle a prosperous modern country.

I doubt that many campus demonstrators have thought through what the term anti-Zionist means or how to establish one Arab state from the river to the sea. The big question: Do those students who fly the Hamas flag even know how Hamas envisions that project? The terror group's conception makes clear why Hamas can have no future role in ruling Gaza or negotiating over a Palestinian state. It also lays bare why student endorsements of Hamas are so ugly — even if they are protected speech.

The Hamas charter calls for killing all Jews in Palestine, with a later version merely calling for a temporary truce if a Palestinian state is established alongside Israel. In late 2021, at a Hamas-funded conference in Gaza, participants discussed how Israeli spoils would be distributed after Palestine was fully liberated "from the sea to the river," and a new state established on the ruins. Jewish fighters would be killed, others might be given time to flee. But, said the concluding document, educated Jews and experts would be "retained" for some time to pay back for "the knowledge they had acquired while living in our land."

It is time for pro-Palestinian demonstrators who call themselves anti-Zionists to clarify what they mean by that term, and how the concept differs (if it does) from the death and destruction that Hamas has in mind.

Protests, not encampments

However, and I stress this, students have every right to speak freely and to demonstrate for a Gaza cease-fire, for more humanitarian aid, and for divestment. I have written on conditioning U.S. support on Israel permitting more humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza and on its safe distribution.

Of course, free speech—including speech some may find offensive—does not extend to blocking or threatening others, whether intimidating Jewish students at Columbia, or attacking pro-Palestinians at UCLA. Nor does it confer the right to disrupt the functioning or safety of the university, including the taking of finals and graduation ceremonies.

Permanent encampments, or occupations of buildings, provide magnets for outsiders and encourage radicalization. Mark Rudd, president of the Students for a Democratic Society who led the 1968 Hamilton Hall occupation, recalled to NPR in 2010 how another SDS student leader burned 10 years of research papers in the Hamilton Hall office of a faculty member who had annoyed him by trying to mediate with students.

Better if university leaders can negotiate a student exodus, as happened at Brown University, and avoid the viciousness of law enforcement at the University of Texas at Austin. But if repeated and final warnings are rejected, along with compromise proposals, the only option for administrators is to call in law enforcement.

Extremists on both sides

Where the student mantra against occupation has legs is in the West Bank. While all eyes are on the Gaza war, Netanyahu's far right ministers are encouraging settler violence against Palestinians on the West Bank and pushing for massive new Jewish settlements there.

The Israeli far right's openly expressed goal is to make life untenable for Palestinians in both the West Bank and Gaza, and it hopes to drive many Palestinians into Egypt or Jordan. Enabled by Netanyahu, the far right's written objective is a reverse parallel to the Hamas charter: one Jewish state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean, where reduced numbers of Palestinians can either submit to Israeli rule, leave, or die.

If the right wing succeeds, then future student demonstrations will be protesting against a true apartheid state.

The only way to block Hamas and Israel's far right is to reach a humanitarian cease-fire, as the White House is urging. That opens the door for new Palestinian leadership in Gaza, rebuilding the strip, and a possible path to a two-state solution.

But (as of this writing) neither Netanyahu nor Hamas appear eager for such a U.S.-backed cease-fire because it could lead to the political demise of both. Hamas leader Yehya Sinwar says he would be willing to sacrifice 100,000 Palestinians for his goals. Meanwhile, Netanyahu's prime goal is clinging to power.

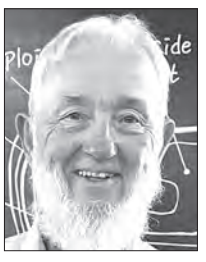
Each will use the scenes of student demonstrations on American campuses to encourage his followers to hew to his destructive hard line. Students, beware.

A Sunday Psalm for a universal mom

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



On Mother's Day a celebration day for every Mom
When she gets time off from ceaseless daily chores
Who doesn't think that their mother is the bomb
For years spent cooking washing and mopping floors
Fixing breakfast for six and more for tonight's dinner
In the kitchen from dawn until some twilight calm
Five children growing up none getting any thinner
She handles her motherhood with relative aplomb
Helps us with homework gets us ready for school
We take out garbage she bakes cookies and cake
Mother taught us children to obey the Golden Rule
Daddy shot deer Mom fried liver and venison steak
Mothers may have more than one sister and brother
It takes family togetherness to love one another.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support KES PTSA-Family Fun Night Royal

I am Khaiceel Jorizza Davis Barcinas, a passionate 4th grader at Koblerville Elementary School. I am thrilled to be part of the KES Royal Court Candidate for the upcoming Family Fun Night Royal Coronation event on May 17, 2024. I am reaching out to you today with a humble request for your support.

The Family Fun Night is an event filled with joy, games, and laughter, aimed at bringing our school community closer together. But beyond the fun, this event serves a vital purpose—supporting our schools needs on a daily basis. As a candidate, I am dedicated to making a difference and contributing in any way I can. You can purchase raffle tickets for any amount.

I am asking for your generous support by purchasing raffle tickets. Your contribution will go directly towards funding essential initiatives at our school. Whether it's covering daily operational expenses, addressing emergencies, supporting student activities, enhancing sports events, or providing cultural uniforms for our talented performers, your support will make a tangible difference in the lives of our students and staff.

By purchasing raffle tickets from me, you are not only helping me achieve my goal of becoming the next Queen of our school, but you are also investing in the future of our community. Your kindness and generosity will have a lasting impact, ensuring that our school continues to thrive and provide quality education to all.

I am eager to put in the hard work and dedication needed to sell as many tickets as possible. Your support means the world to me and my family, and I want to express my deepest gratitude for your willingness to make Students First and Educators Always.

To purchase raffle tickets or for more information, please feel free to contact me at (670) 789-8088.

Together, let's make a difference and create a brighter future for Koblerville Elementary School.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Chaiceel Jorizza Davis Barcinas
2024 KES Royal Court Candidate

Remembering Jeannie Sakovich

Hi my name is Alfred Hradecky (switched to Erich when I was 18). Anyways I was one of the main swimmers on the Saipan Swim Club in the '70s. I qualified for the 1984 Olympic team but I never made it that far. Many, many medals and had lots of U.S. records. Jeannie and Bill were a huge part of my life and will always remember the positive energy and team building they created for us all.

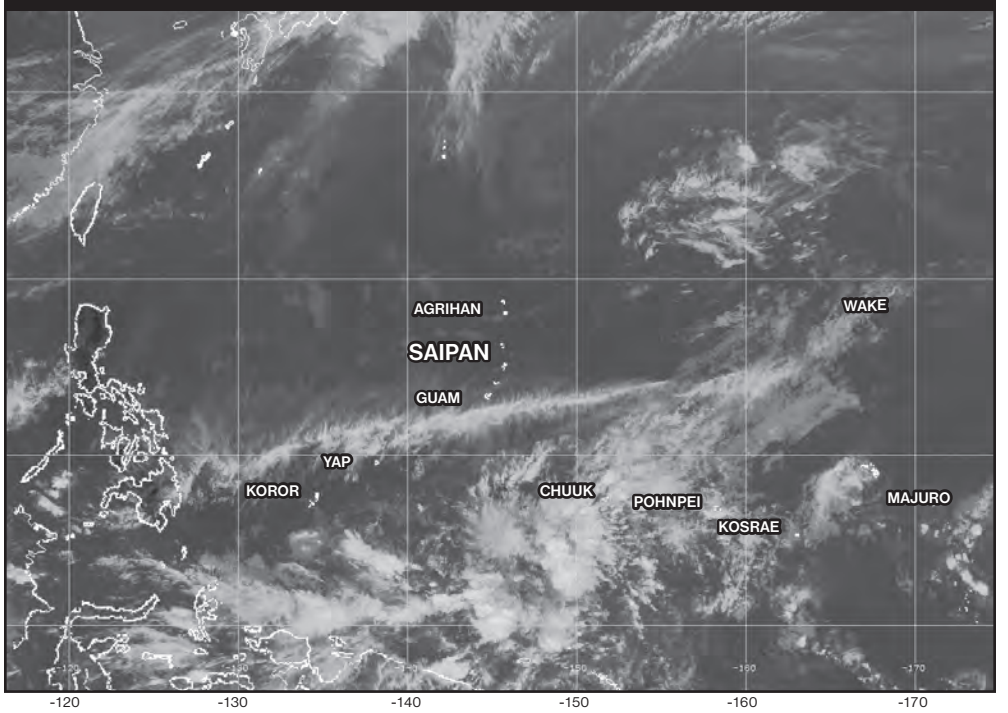
Erich Hradecky
Via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 79°	87° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:45 AM TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with spotty showers across the Marianas. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 4 to 6 feet in the coastal waters. Winds are gentle.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Fair	81° / 60°
Hong Kong	Haze	89° / 76°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 52°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	93° / 65°
Manila	Fair	96° / 84°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 71°
New York	Clear	72° / 63°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 65°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 52°
Busan	Rain Shower	68° / 59°
Rome	Sunny	70° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	74° / 50°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 51°
Seoul	Light Rain	59° / 54°
Tokyo	Rain Shower	71° / 67°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	76° / 67°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:33 AM	6:45 PM	-
Thursday	6:22 AM	7:49 PM	-
Friday	7:16 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	8:14 AM	9:53 PM	-
Sunday	9:13 AM	10:48 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:27 AM	Low Tide	1.02
6:50 AM	High Tide	2.16
1:59 PM	Low Tide	-0.25
8:48 PM	High Tide	2.10

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

KAL Guam office manager sentenced to 41 months' imprisonment

HAGATNA, Guam—Shawn N. Anderson, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced that defendant Sung Peel Hwang a.k.a. Don Sung Peel Hwang, age 39, from the Republic of Korea and naturalized citizen of the United States, was sentenced to serve 41 months' imprisonment. He was charged with bank fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344(1) and money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957. The court also ordered five years of supervised release, restitution of $615, 271.51 and a mandatory $200 special assessment fee.

Beginning in September 2015 and continuing until December of 2018, Hwang engaged in a scheme to defraud his employer and to embezzle over $600,000. Hwang was an administrator in the Korean Air Lines Guam office at the Guam International Airport. KAL operated commercial passenger flights between Guam and South Korea. All airlines operating out of GIAA are required to report the number of passengers on their flights and to pay a corresponding Passenger Facility Charge to GIAA. As an administrator at the Guam KAL office, Hwang's duties included reporting the number of passengers and paying the corresponding PFC, procuring, and paying for other office supplies and services, and acting as one of two co-signatories on KAL Guam's business checking account at the Bank of Guam. As one part of his scheme, Hwang underreported the PFC owed to GIAA and kept the difference between the actual PFC owed and the PFC paid for himself. Over the course of the three-year scheme Hwang deposited over $3.5 million in KAL funds into his personal bank account and diverted over $600,000 in KAL funds to his own personal use.

Anderson

"Hwang cheated his employer and GIAA out of a substantial sum of money," stated Anderson. "Fortunately, GIAA's auditing procedures eventually revealed this scheme. The sentence imposed by the court is a strong message of accountability and deterrence. I applaud our federal law enforcement partners for their hard work in bringing Hwang to justice."

"The FBI is focused on addressing financial crimes that have an impact on our communities," said FBI special agent in charge Steven Merrill. "This sentence should give pause to others who consider engaging in similar criminal conduct."

"Mr. Hwang's greed may have netted him a temporary windfall, but at great cost to those he stole from and to the detriment of his community," said IRS-CI special agent in charge Adam Jobes.

"Today's sentencing shows that CI is committed to fighting financial crime, and making sure that fraudsters pay the just cost for those crimes."

The investigation was conducted by the FBI Guam Resident Agency and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. This case was prosecuted by Benjamin K. Petersburg, assistant United States attorney, District of Guam. ***(PR)***

Workforce Development Center renovations begin

» First-'offsite' construction project for GCC

GCC

Pale' Eric Forbes delivers the opening prayer during the groundbreaking ceremony for the GCC Workforce Development Center in Barrigada, Guam last Monday.

GUAM—Guam Community College turned the shovels at a groundbreaking ceremony for the GCC Workforce Development Center in Barrigada on Monday, May 6, 2024. The renovation will modernize the facility's workshop spaces and training rooms and add updated training equipment.

The project is expected to be completed in 2025. The WDC will house GCC's ship repair work-ready bootcamps in providing entry- and journey-worker-level training in the construction and marine repair trades.

Guam has a large U.S. Naval base and is a commercial shipping hub between the United States, Asia, and islands in the North Pacific. As an island territory, Guam is reliant on the marine shipping industry for commerce and trade activity. There are three ship repair facilities providing maintenance and ship repair services for both military and commercial ships.

"It takes a very unique leader and team to recognize when they have a great opportunity," said acting governor Joshua Tenorio. "President Okada and her team were able to secure the property and take advantage and to be very relevant with what the shortages are now in the labor work force. These shortages are in the area of ship repair and there is a growing need and growing demand for us to expand the workforce to support these kinds of jobs."

Guam's construction sector is the second largest private sector, with over 10% of the workforce employed in this quickly growing sector. Construction on Guam is growing as the military increases their presence on Guam with the U.S. Marines moving from Okinawa and the increasing demand for civilian residential and commercial construction. The total value of building permits for civilian projects and U.S. Department of Defense construction contracts is increasing substantially.

"For the past several years, we have been engaged with conversations on the various initiatives for economic diversification," said Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president and CEO. "Through the governor's initiative with the Guam Chamber of Commerce and Guam Economic Development Authority, co-led by Joe Cruz and Siska Hutapea, construction and ship repair were identified as occupational areas that needed capacity expansion. Through the college's participation in these discussions, our mission to support building the career and technical workforce for our islands takes center stage," Dr. Okada added.

The bid contract was awarded in March 2024 to American Builder, LLC. for $3,270,000. Design of the WDC was done by TRMA+ (Taniguchi Ruth Makio Archietects+). ***(PR)***

Jerry Diego Borja honored among Utah Tech University's 113th graduating class

ST. GEORGE, UT—Utah Tech University celebrated the 2024 graduating class of 2,967 students at its 113th Commencement ceremonies on Friday.

Part of the graduating class is Saipan's very own Jerry Diego Borja.

During the first ceremony, held in the morning on May 3 at the Greater Zion Stadium at Utah Tech University, 31% of graduates earned their associate degree. During the evening ceremony, 37% of the graduates received a bachelor's degree, 31% received a certificate, and 1% earned their master's degree.

"Utah Tech University is excited to celebrate its 2024 graduating class," interim president Courtney White said. "We are so proud of our graduates' accomplishments and can't wait to see the impact they have on the world as they take what they've learned here at Utah Tech and blaze new trails well into the future."

Utah Tech's 113th graduating class was made up of 39% males and 61% females, with the youngest being 16 and the oldest being 68. Among the nearly 3,000 graduates celebrated, 41 U.S. states were represented, and 17 countries outside of the U.S. were also represented.

The Top 5 bachelor's degrees awarded were nursing, exercise science, psychology, management and communication studies.

Jared Smith, a bachelor's degree recipient in nursing, was named 2024 valedictorian.

"I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the experiences and people who have influenced my life during my time at Utah Tech University," Smith said. "Utah Tech is a great place, but what really makes it one-of-a-kind are the people you meet here."

Utah Tech University is a premier open-enrollment teaching institution that offers more than 275 academic programs at one of the lowest tuition costs in the Western United States. The University was built upon a rich tradition of determination and generosity that is still embraced by the campus community today. With the motto "active learning. active life." Utah Tech provides personalized and engaged learning experiences that prepare students for rewarding careers and enriched lives. Outside of the classroom, students have the opportunity to enjoy the unparalleled opportunities for an active life that accompany UT's location in beautiful Southern Utah.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Utah Tech University's 113th graduating class was made up of 39% males and 61% females, with the youngest being 16 and the oldest being 68. Among the nearly 3,000 graduates celebrated, 41 U.S. states were represented, and 17 countries outside of the U.S. were also represented.

For more information about Utah Tech University, please visit utahtech.edu. ***(PR)***

Business

Atkins Kroll, BMW Group Asia support Guam PGA Junior League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll president Alex Yap and BMW Group Asia managing director Lars Nielson (standing left to right second row) pose with members of the Guam Junior League with parents and volunteers. The program director is Nathan Kang, a PGA professional donning an orange shirt.

TAMUNING, Guam—In keeping with the ongoing celebration of Atkins Kroll's 110th anniversary, Atkins Kroll and BMW Group Asia proudly announced their collaboration to support initiatives around the Guam PGA Junior League event on April 27, 2024 with the aim of nurturing the future generation of golfers and make a positive impact within the community.

» AK continues Its 110th anniversary celebrations with latest golf initiative

President of Atkins Kroll, Alex Yap, emphasized the significance of supporting junior golfers, stating, "Junior golfers are the future of Guam golf. They will learn integrity, teamwork, and patience through this league and will become not only skilled golfers but also well-mannered adults."

Lars Nielsen, managing director of BMW Group Asia, said, "BMW has long history with golf and we are proud to further our commitment to the sport in Guam." In addition to a full day of training in golf skills and etiquette, BMW Group Asia also sponsored green fees for 22 members, volunteer cart fees, prizes, trophies, banners, photo booth, and all-day refreshments.

Nathan Kang, a registered PGA professional, directs the Guam PGA Junior League. Kang highlighted the importance of community support in the growth of golf, particularly the role of junior golfers. He stated, " We want to ensure that the sport continues to thrive for generations to come."

The Guam PGA Junior League, the first official PGA Junior League in the country, debuted in January 2024. This initiative provides a platform for boys and girls aged 15 and under to learn and enjoy the game of golf under the guidance of PGA and LPGA Professionals. Through fun, social, and inclusive opportunities, young golfers have the chance to develop essential values such as integrity, teamwork, and patience. ***(PR)***

Macron puts trade, Ukraine as top priorities as China's Xi opens European visit in France

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Monday that focused on trade disputes—including lifting immediate tariff threats on Cognac exports—and Ukraine-related diplomatic efforts.

Xi was in France for a two-day state visit to open his European tour.

Speaking alongside Xi after their meeting at the Elysee presidential palace, Macron said that France hopes China's influence on Moscow would help to move Russia toward ending the war in Ukraine.

"We welcome the Chinese authorities' commitments to refrain from selling any weapons or aid" and to "strictly control" sales of products and technologies that can be used for both civilian and military purposes, Macron said.

China claims neutrality in the war.

"History has repeatedly proven that any conflict can ultimately be resolved only through negotiation," Xi said. "We call on all parties to restart contact and dialogue."

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently announced plans to visit China this month.

Last year, Macron appealed to Xi to "bring Russia to its senses," but the call wasn't followed by any apparent action by Beijing.

Both leaders also expressed their concerns regarding the situation in the Middle East, where Macron said France and China share the "same goals," that is "to achieve an immediate cease-fire to release hostages, protect the populations, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, encourage a regional deescalation and reopen a political perspective."

Xi called the Israel-Hamas war a "tragedy" that is "a test of human conscience."

"The international community must do something. We call for an immediate, comprehensive and sustainable cease-fire in Gaza," he said.

In addition, Xi expressed China's willingness to work with France "to take the Paris Olympics as an opportunity to advocate a global cease-fire and cessation of war during the Games."

Macron advocates for making the Paris Games "a diplomatic moment of peace" and respect the Olympic Truce.

World

Hamas accepts Gaza cease-fire

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hamas said Monday it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari cease-fire proposal, but Israel said the deal did not meet its core demands and it was pushing ahead with an assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah. Still, Israel said it would continue negotiations.

The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive—but only barely—for an accord that could bring at least a pause in the 7-month-old war that has devastated the Gaza Strip. Hanging over the wrangling was the threat of an all-out Israeli assault on Rafah, a move the United States strongly opposes and that aid groups warn will be disastrous for some 1.4 million Palestinians taking refuge there.

Hamas's abrupt acceptance of the cease-fire deal came hours after Israel ordered an evacuation of some 100,000 Palestinians from eastern neighborhoods of Rafah, signaling an invasion was imminent.

The Israeli military said it was conducting "targeted strikes" against Hamas in eastern Rafah. Soon after, Israeli tanks entered Rafah, reaching as close as 200 meters (yards) from Rafah's crossing with neighboring Egypt, a Palestinian security official and an Egyptian official said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The reported incursion came a day after Hamas militants killed four Israeli soldiers in a mortar attack that Israel said originated near the Rafah crossing.

» Israel says it will continue talks but presses on with Rafah attacks

The Egyptian official said the operation appeared to be limited. The Associated Press could not independently verify the scope of the operation.

Israeli airstrikes also hit elsewhere in Rafah late Monday, killing at least five people, including a child and a woman, hospital officials said.

The Israeli military declined to comment.

Shortly after Hamas said it had accepted the Egyptian-Qatari truce proposal, Israel's War Cabinet decided to continue the Rafah operation, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 's office said. It also said that while the proposal Hamas agreed to "is far from meeting Israel's core demands," it would send negotiators to Egypt to work on a deal. Late Monday, Qatar announced it was sending a team to Egypt as well.

President Joe Biden spoke with Netanyahu and reiterated U.S. concerns about an invasion of Rafah. U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said American officials were reviewing the Hamas response "and discussing it with our partners in the region."

It was not immediately known if the proposal Hamas agreed to was substantially different from one that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken pressed the militant group to accept last week, which Blinken said included significant Israeli concessions.

An American official said the U.S. was examining whether what Hamas agreed to was the version signed off on by Israel and international negotiators or something else.

Putin is starting 5th term as president, more in control of Russia than ever

Vladimir Putin begins his fifth term as Russian president in an opulent Kremlin inauguration Tuesday, after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and consolidating all power in his hands.

Already in office for nearly a quarter-century and the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin, Putin's new term doesn't expire until 2030, when he is constitutionally eligible to run for another six years.

He has transformed Russia from a country emerging from economic collapse to a pariah state that threatens global security. Following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine that has become Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Russia has been heavily sanctioned by the West and is turning other regimes like China, Iran and North Korea for support.

The question now is what the 71-year-old Putin will do over the course of another six years, both at home and abroad.

Russian forces are gaining ground in Ukraine, deploying scorched-earth tactics as Kyiv grapples with shortages of men and ammunition. Both sides are taking heavy casualties.

Ukraine has brought the battle to Russian soil through drone and missile attacks, especially in border regions. In a speech in February, Putin vowed to fulfill Moscow's goals in Ukraine, and do what is needed to "defend our sovereignty and security of our citizens."

Shortly after his orchestrated reelection in March, Putin suggested that a confrontation between NATO and Russia is possible, and he declared he wanted to carve out a buffer zone in Ukraine to protect his country from cross-border attacks.

At home, Putin's popularity is closely tied to improving living standards for ordinary Russians.

He began his term in 2018 by promising to get Russia into the top five global economies, vowing it should be "modern and dynamic." Instead, Russia's economy has pivoted to a war footing, and authorities are spending record amounts on defense.

Analysts say now that Putin has secured another six years in power, the government could take the unpopular steps of raising taxes to fund the war and pressure more men to join the military.

At the start of a new term, the Russian government is routinely dissolved so that Putin can name a new prime minister and Cabinet.

One key area to watch is the Defense Ministry.

Last year, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu came under pressure over his conduct of the war, with mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin launching withering criticism against him for shortages of ammunition for his private contractors fighting in Ukraine. Prigozhin's brief uprising in June against the Defense Ministry represented the biggest threat to Putin's rule. ***(AP)***

Life & Style

The Times, The Post lead Pulitzer Prizes winners

NEW YORK (AP)—*The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* were awarded three Pulitzer Prizes apiece on Monday for work in 2023 that dealt with everything from the war in Gaza to gun violence, and The Associated Press won in the feature photography category for coverage of global migration to the U.S.

Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and its aftermath produced work that resulted in two Pulitzers and a special citation. *The Times* won for text coverage that the Pulitzer board described as "wide-ranging and revelatory," while the Reuters news service won for its photography. The citation went to journalists and other writers covering the war in Gaza.

The prestigious public service award went to ProPublica for reporting that "pierced the thick wall of secrecy" around the U.S. Supreme Court to show how billionaires gave expensive gifts to justices and paid for luxury travel. Reporters Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski and Kirsten Berg were honored for their work.

The Pulitzers honored the best in journalism from 2023 in 15 categories, as well as eight arts categories focused on books, music and theater. The public service winner receives a gold medal. All other winners receive $15,000.

The 15 photos in AP's winning entry were taken across Latin America and along the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas and California in a year when immigration was one of the world's biggest stories. They were shot by AP staffers Greg Bull, Eric Gay, Fernando Llano, Marco Ugarte and Eduardo Verdugo, and longtime AP freelancers Christian Chavez, Felix Marquez and Ivan Valencia.

"These raw and emotional images came about through day-to-day coverage of a historic moment in multiple countries documenting migrants at every step of their treacherous journeys," said Julie Pace, the AP's senior vice president and executive editor.

The United States has seen more than 10 million border arrivals in the last five years, with migrants arriving from a wide range of new locations like Venezuela, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti and African countries, in contrast with earlier eras.

The AP has won 59 Pulitzer Prizes, including 36 for photography. The news cooperative was named a finalist for the national reporting Pulitzer on Monday for its coverage of hundreds of thousands of children who disappeared from public schools during the pandemic.

In citing the Times for its work in Israel and Gaza, the Pulitzer board mentioned its coverage of the country's intelligence failures, along with the attack and Israel's military response.

The award comes even as *The Times* has faced some controversy about its coverage; last month a group of journalism professors called on the publication to address questions about an investigation into gender-based violence during the Hamas attack on Israel.

AP

Migrants reach through a border wall for clothing handed out by volunteers as they wait between two border walls to apply for asylum Friday, May 12, 2023, in San Diego. Hundreds of migrants remain waiting between the two walls, many for days. The image was part of a series by Associated Press photographers Ivan Valencia, Eduardo Verdugo, Felix Marquez, Marco Ugarte Fernando Llano, Eric Gay, Gregory Bull and Christian Chavez that won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.

The Times' Hannah Dreier won a Pulitzer in investigative reporting for her stories on migrant child labor across the United States. Contributing writer Katie Engelhart won the newspaper's third Pulitzer, in feature writing, for her portrait of a family struggling with a matriarch's dementia.

"Every one of the winners and finalists showcases a drive for original, revelatory reporting that underpins so much of what we produce, from the biggest storylines in the news to feature writing as well as classic investigations," said Joe Kahn, the *Times*' executive editor.

The Washington Post staff won in national reporting for its "sobering examination" of the AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, which came with some gut-wrenching photos. "We were eager to find a way to cover it differently and change the conversation about mass shootings," Peter Walstein, the Post's senior national enterprise editor, said in the newspaper.

The Post's David E. Hoffman won in editorial writing for a "compelling and well-researched" series on how authoritarian regimes repress dissent in the digital age. Its third award went to contributor Vladimir Kara-Murza, for commentaries written from a Russian prison cell.

The New Yorker magazine won two Pulitzers. Sarah Stillman won in explanatory reporting for her report on the legal system's reliance on felony murder charges. Contributor Medar de la Cruz won in illustrated reporting and commentary for his story humanizing inmates in the Rikers Island jail in New York City.

The staff of Lookout Santa Cruz in California won in the breaking news category for what the prize board called "nimble community-minded coverage" of flooding and mudslides. On its website Monday, Lookout Santa Cruz said that it made its coverage free at a time of crisis in the community, and also used text messages to reach people without power.

"In short, we did our jobs," the staff said in an unsigned article, "and we heard so many thanks for it. The Pulitzer is icing on that cake."

The Pulitzers gave a second award in national reporting to the Reuters staff for an "eye-opening" series that probed Elon Musk's automobile and aerospace businesses.

In local reporting, Sarah Conway of City Bureau and Trina Reynolds-Tyler of the Invisible Institute won for an investigative series on missing Black girls and women in Chicago, which showed how racism and the police contributed to the problem.

The Pulitzer in criticism went to Justin Chang of *The Los Angeles Times* for evocative and genre-spanning coverage of movies. The Pulitzer board's second special citation went to the late hip-hop critic Greg Tate.

The awards are administered by Columbia University in New York, which itself has been in the news for student demonstrations against the war in Gaza. The Pulitzer board met away from Columbia this past weekend to deliberate on its winners.

The Pulitzers announced that five of the 45 finalists this year used artificial intelligence in research and reporting of their submissions. It was the first time the board required applicants for the award to disclose use of AI.

The prizes were established in the will of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer and first awarded in 1917.

Husband tells his wife to find a side piece for sex

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for the last 25 years to a wonderful man, "Frank." We are very happy in all areas except for intimacy. Frank has lost all interest in intimacy and sex. It began about two years ago, and I have tried everything to reignite the flame in our relationship. Frank's sex drive has disappeared!

About a year ago, he told me I should find someone—a friend with benefits—to take care of my sexual needs. At the time I said no, hoping he would be interested again. Now, after a year of waiting, I am seriously considering finding a "friend."

Do you think I should follow through with it, or keep waiting and hoping Frank will change? Have you any advice about how to restart the intimacy in our relationship?

EXTINGUISHED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR EXTINGUISHED: You and your husband need to have another serious talk about this. He should also talk to his doctor and ask for a referral to a urologist and an endocrinologist, who may be able to help. The inability to achieve an erection occurs in some men around age 50 and even younger, which is why Viagra is such a popular drug. If your husband is willing to discuss this with a medical professional, it may be the solution to his (and your) problem.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I met a co-worker about a year ago and we started dating. He had been clean and sober from alcohol for more than 10 years. We got along very well, but he is drinking again, and his behavior has changed -- there are mood swings, bouts of jealousy and finger-pointing.

When he drinks, it's unpleasant, and the smell seeping from his pores is nauseating. He finds almost any reason to have a drink. When I try to talk to him about it, he says he does nothing wrong and he drinks because he wants to, or some other reason that makes no sense. I'm tired of the excuses. Then he begs for forgiveness or accuses me of not wanting him around.

I have told him he needs to work on himself and get back into the program, and he says all he can do is take one day at a time. He drinks and drives, which poses a danger to himself and others. He's jealous of my ex and my grown children. He plays the victim, and his answers to questions are, "I don't remember," "I didn't do anything," or "I don't know what you're talking about." I'm at my wits' end and can't take any more. Please help.

TOXIC RELATIONSHIP

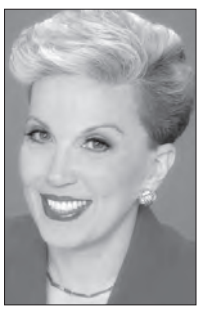
DEAR TOXIC: Draw the line. Remind your co-worker that when you started dating him, he was on the wagon. Tell him that when he drinks his personality changes, and you do not like the person he becomes. You need to educate yourself about alcoholism, and an effective way to do that would be to join Al-Anon and attend some meetings.

If you really "can't take any more," stop dating him! And, if it creates problems where you work, inform your boss or supervisor. I'm sure that because of the potential liability, your employer won't be thrilled about having a drunk for an employee.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

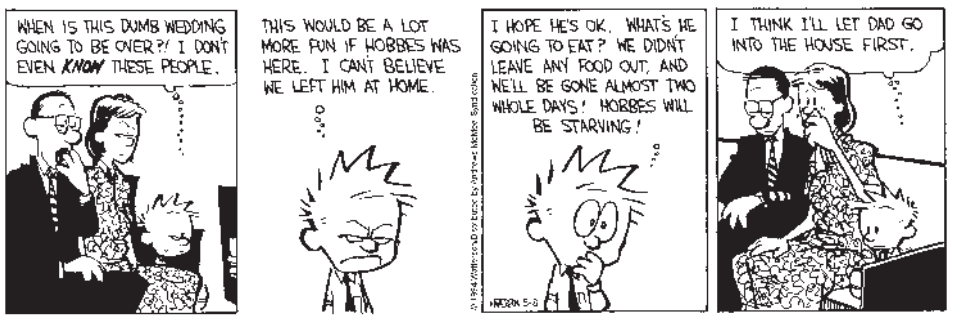


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

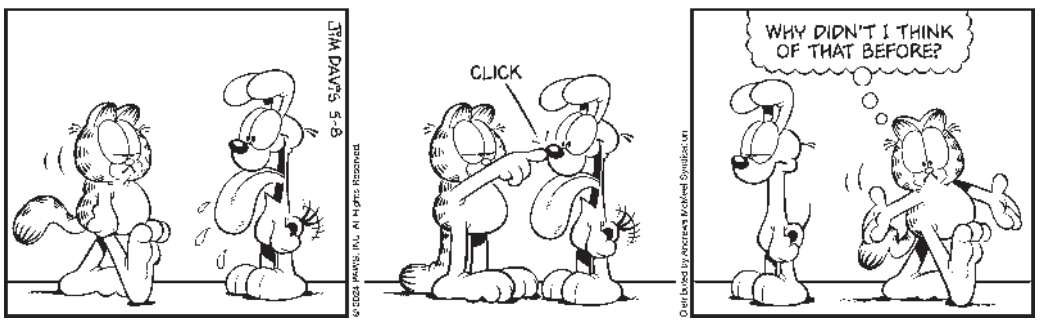
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHEN IS THIS DUMB WEDDING GOING TO BE OVER?! I DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE.
THIS WOULD BE A LOT MORE FUN IF HOBBES WAS HERE. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LEFT HIM AT HOME.
I HOPE HE'S OK. WHAT'S HE GOING TO EAT? WE DIDN'T LEAVE ANY FOOD OUT, AND WE'LL BE GONE ALMOST TWO WHOLE DAYS! HOBBES WILL BE STARVING!
I THINK I'LL LET DAD GO INTO THE HOUSE FIRST.

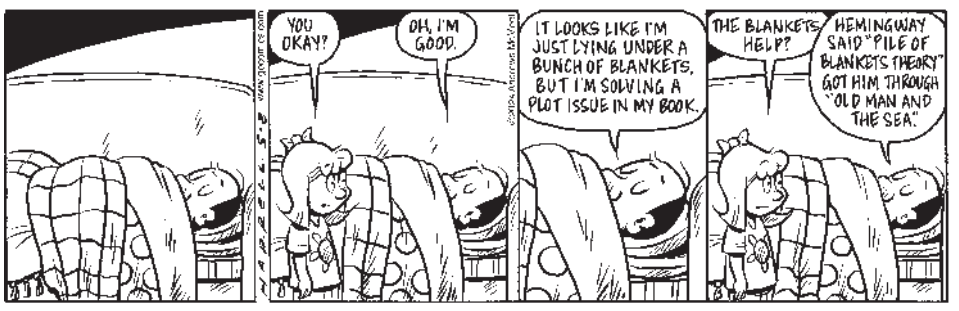
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



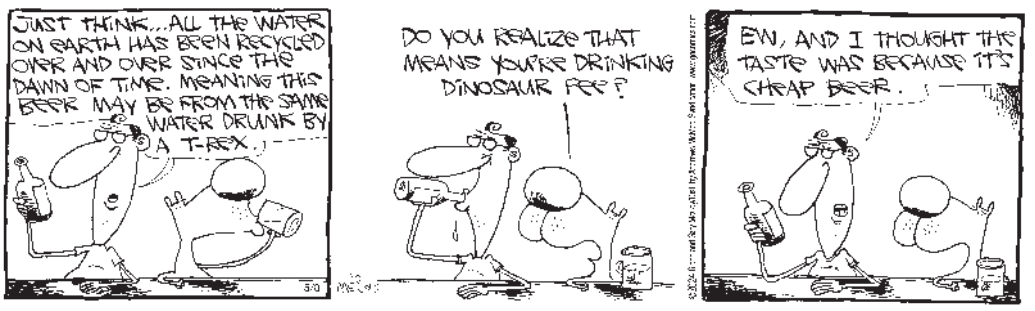
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU OKAY?
OH, I'M GOOD.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M JUST LYING UNDER A BUNCH OF BLANKETS, BUT I'M SOLVING A PLOT ISSUE IN MY BOOK.
THE BLANKETS HELP?
HEMINGWAY SAID "PILE OF BLANKETS THEORY" GOT HIM THROUGH "OLD MAN AND THE SEA."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


JUST THINK...ALL THE WATER ON EARTH HAS BEEN RECYCLED OVER AND OVER SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME. MEANING THIS BEER MAY BE FROM THE SAME WATER DRUNK BY A T-REX.
DO YOU REALIZE THAT MEANS YOU'RE DRINKING DINOSAUR PEE?
EW, AND I THOUGHT THE TASTE WAS BECAUSE IT'S CHEAP BEER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

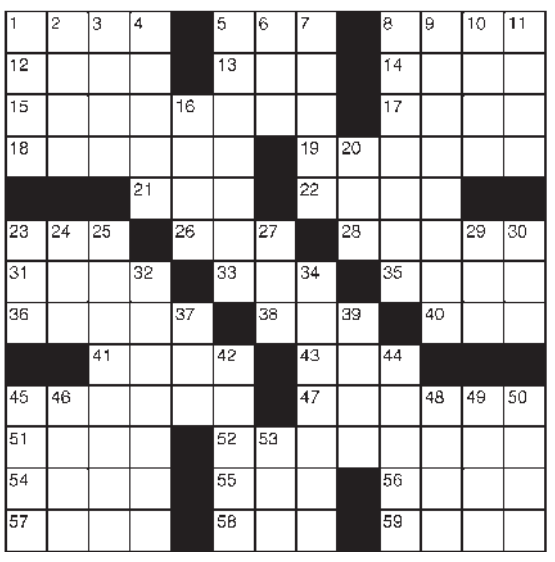
ACROSS
1 String
5 Buddy
8 Love letter abbr.
12 Cruising
13 $ dispenser
14 Face part
15 "Anything more?"
17 Scarce
18 Justice Alito
19 Small beard
21 Org. with a style manual
22 Dog's din-din
23 Attorney's profession
26 Bygone jet
28 Crusoe's creator
31 Twice cuatro
33 Boy king
35 French perfume brand
36 Compote fruits
38 Saloon
40 Small digit
41 "Toodle-oo!"
43 Estuary
45 Wading birds
47 Classic Ford
51 Diana of "The Avengers"
52 "I don't care"
54 Chills and fever
55 Jackson 5 hit song
56 — -majesté
57 Tampa and Chesapeake
58 Refusals
59 Tolkien creatures

DOWN
1 Raven calls
2 Job-safety org.
3 500 sheets
4 Fact
5 Boat stabilizer
6 ACLU concerns
7 Alpha's opposite
8 Removed old paint, say
9 "So?"
10 Suffix for million
11 Patella site
16 Morays
20 Vintage
23 Prune
24 High card
25 "Gotta give him credit!"
27 Vat
29 Tic-tac-toe win
30 Before
32 Citrus fruits
34 Airport areas
37 Sault — Marie
39 Laugh-a-minute
42 Dam on the Nile
44 Fred's dancing partner
45 Beach crawler
46 Latvia's capital
48 Divisible by two
49 For fear that
50 "— chic!"
53 "Succession" airer

Solution time: 23 mins.

W	I	L	T	■	P	S	I	■	A	B	B	A
A	L	E	S	■	S	E	N	■	P	H	O	S
F	L	A	P	J	A	C	K	■	P	I	L	E
T	S	K	■	A	I	T	■	O	I	Γ	T	A
■	■	■	J	I	M	■	I	L	E	■	■	■
P	A	P	A	L	■	O	D	D	J	O	B	S
E	R	I	C	■	P	R	S	■	A	U	R	A
G	A	S	K	E	T	S	■	S	C	R	A	M
■	■	■	F	R	A	■	Y	A	K	■	■	■
S	N	A	R	E	■	P	A	C	■	D	I	S
T	C	F	U	■	J	A	C	K	P	O	T	S
E	S	A	I	■	A	S	H	■	A	M	E	N
P	E	R	I	■	M	O	I	■	N	O	M	S

Yesterday's answer 5-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stephen Amell, 43; Enrique Iglesias, 49; Melissa Gilbert, 60; David Keith, 70.

Happy Birthday: Put your higher mind to work and make things happen. Step into the spotlight, share your thoughts and plans, and find out who is ready to support your actions. It's time to lead the way, to make yourself heard and to make your pursuits a reality. You can make a difference within your community, family or globally. Personal changes and self-improvement will lead to satisfaction. Your numbers are 5, 16, 24, 29, 33, 41, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention and do your best. How you handle matters will influence your success and how others view you. Don't hesitate to voice your opinion, ask questions and listen to responses to ensure you hold the interest of those you need by your side. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Discipline and reaching out to people you know you can count on will pay off. Explore how you can use your attributes to enhance a project that encourages progress. Focus on something that requires physical agility, strength and courage, and you will succeed. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep an open mind, but when it's time to make a move, do so for the right reason. Following someone else's dream isn't going to satisfy your needs. Take time to figure out what makes you happy and focus on the path that takes you there. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Get involved in something that makes you feel good about yourself and the contributions you make. Creative thinking will help you decide how you can make a difference. What you discover about yourself will build confidence and help you excel. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Watch your step when dealing with professional, legal or partnership issues. Letting your emotions take over can affect your reputation or status quo. Pay attention to detail, and choose your words carefully. Don't share secrets. Someone will make you look bad if given the chance. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Do what excites you, follow your heart and connect with someone from your past. Sign up for an adventure or learn something to help you raise your profile or earning potential. Opportunity is apparent; it's up to you to make things happen. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't stop short of achieving your goals. Look for a way to turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime. Open a discussion with someone you trust to offer stellar feedback. A partnership that can help you advance looks promising. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll gravitate toward people with an unusual profession or hobby. Learn all you can, and you'll discover you have a hidden talent. Express your feelings, and you'll get a response encouraging you to change your lifestyle. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep busy. The less time you have to spare, the harder it will be for someone to confront you with something you aren't ready to discuss. Sign up for events or activities that offer a physical or intellectual challenge. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be observant and helpful, but keep your opinions to yourself. Arguments won't solve problems, but they will distance you from someone you love. The best help you can offer is to be positive and tell someone how much you care. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Test your intelligence, knowledge and ability to do something physical to help you stay in shape and live a healthy life. The changes you initiate will set the stage for future opportunities that combine learning, earning and personal freedom. Do your research and make a lifestyle change. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't get caught in someone else's dilemma. Distance yourself from drama and focus on what you can do to get ahead. Attending an event, activity or conference will open a window of opportunity you didn't expect. Try your hand at something new. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, disciplined and original. You are thorough and sympathetic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7				4		5		
		1	2		9			
	8				5	2		6
	7	5		2	6	4		
			1				5	2
	6		5	9	4	1	7	
2		4		5	7		8	
						9	6	
6				1			2	

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/8

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	4	2	7	3	1	9	5	8
3	5	1	9	8	6	7	4	2
9	8	7	4	2	5	3	6	1
7	9	8	5	4	3	1	2	6
4	6	5	2	1	9	8	7	3
2	1	3	6	7	8	5	9	4
8	2	4	3	5	7	6	1	9
5	3	9	1	6	4	2	8	7
1	7	6	8	9	2	4	3	5

Difficulty: ★★ 5/7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LOVING SHELLFISH Solution: 7 letters

S	A	L	T	W	A	T	E	R	E	T	T	A	L	P
C	P	M	E	A	L	I	O	B	U	T	T	E	R	O
A	P	A	B	A	L	O	N	E	K	A	B	O	C	A
L	E	R	E	S	M	A	R	I	N	A	T	E	L	C
L	T	I	W	L	Q	Z	S	L	L	E	H	S	A	H
O	I	N	N	E	L	U	I	D	I	S	H	B	M	S
P	Z	E	W	A	T	A	I	N	D	A	L	A	S	I
S	E	B	F	A	E	S	S	D	C	A	S	R	G	F
K	R	U	S	E	R	L	E	T	E	T	H	B	R	E
S	S	R	A	E	A	D	B	T	E	S	R	E	I	L
U	S	C	T	R	A	S	S	R	H	A	I	C	L	T
L	I	S	E	E	M	A	T	I	O	P	M	U	L	T
L	Y	N	R	E	T	S	B	O	L	I	P	E	E	U
O	I	B	A	R	C	E	T	A	C	I	L	E	D	C
M	U	S	S	E	L	S	U	P	O	T	C	O	O	K

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Abalone, Appetizers, Bake, Barbecue, Boil, Breaded, Broil, Butter, Clams, Cook, Crab, Cuttlefish, Delicate, Dish, Feast, Grilled, Lean, Lobster, Marinate, Marine, Meal, Minerals, Mollusks, Mussels, Octopus, Oysters, Paella, Pasta, Platter, Poach, Protein, Raw, Salad, Saltwater, Scallops, Scrub, Shells, Shrimp, Squid, Steamed, Stew, Taste, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Degrees

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Edwards, Towns lead Wolves' blitz for 2-0 series lead over champion Nuggets

DENVER (AP)—Anthony Edwards and Karl-Anthony Towns powered Minnesota's 106-80 blitz of the Denver Nuggets on Monday night that gave the Timberwolves a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals over the reigning but reeling NBA champions.

Towns and Edwards both scored 27 points as the Wolves improved to 6-0 in the playoffs and gave themselves a chance to close out the fuming Nuggets with wins Friday night and Sunday in Minneapolis.

So dominant were the Wolves that they had the Nuggets throwing both fits (Michael Malone) and objects onto the court (Jamal Murray).

Aaron Gordon led Denver with 20 points, Nikola Jokic had 16 points and 16 rebounds but their third-leading scorer was sub Justin Holliday with 13 points. Murray scored 8 points on 3-of-18 shooting.

The Wolves staggered the Nuggets with body blow after body blow even though their starting center Rudy Gobert was back home in Minneapolis attending the birth of his son Sunday. But they didn't need Gobert's shot blocking prowess and rim protection on this night to continue their domination of the Nuggets at Ball Arena, where Denver was 36-8 before their back-to-back losses to Minnesota.

Kyle Andeson replaced Gobert in the starting lineup and the Timberwolves hounded Jokic and disrupted Denver's offense just the same.

During a 43-18 first-half flourish by the Timberwolves—Edwards was on the bench for much of it, no less—the Nuggets grew so frustrated that Malone ran way out onto the court and got in official Marc Davis' face for an extended blowup during a timeout and somehow avoided a technical.

So did Murray after Denver's ailing point guard threw a heat pack onto the court in frustration as Towns was about to score on a layup in the second quarter.

It wasn't clear if the officials realized it was Murray who threw the object onto the court and not a fan. He will likely face punishment from the league, however.

Frustrated by their slow starts—the Nuggets have trailed by double digits in six of their seven playoff games and by nine in the other—Malone challenged his team to get off to a strong start for once.

"What are we waiting for?" he pleaded after Sunday's practice.

Only Aaron Gordon heeded his coach's call, scoring 13 quick points, including a 3-pointer that brought the Nuggets to 18-17 late in the first quarter.

Things unraveled for Denver after that because Jokic was the only other starter to score for the Nuggets before the second quarter. Jokic had just eight points by halftime and Murray, still bothered by a strained left calf, scored just two first-half points for the duo's worst offensive output in a half this season.

Trailing 61-35 at the break, the Nuggets' 26-point halftime deficit was Denver's largest in a home playoff game in franchise history.

The Wolves led 82-60 after three quarters and cruised the rest of the way.

AP

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards, center, looks to pass the ball as Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon, left, and guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, center, defend in the first half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Monday, May 6, 2024, in Denver.

KNICKS 121, PACERS 117

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson doesn't go into a game aiming to score 40 points more consistently than anyone in the postseason since Michael Jordan.

He only cares about winning games, so a late defensive stop is just as important to him as any of his shots.

"The little things can go a long way," Brunson said. "So yeah, the 40 points are cool and all, but it's the little things that help us win games like that. So I'm just happy to have the group of guys that I do."

And the New York Knicks are sure thrilled to have him.

Brunson scored 43 points, becoming the fourth player in NBA history with four straight 40-point games in the postseason, and the Knicks beat the Indiana Pacers 121-117 on Monday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Brunson had 21 in the fourth quarter, rallying the Knicks after they trailed by nine early in the period, and joined Hall of Famers Jerry West, who had six consecutive 40-point games in the postseason, and Michael Jordan and Bernard King (both with four). Jordan did it in the 1993 NBA Finals.

Donte DiVincenzo hit the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 40 seconds remaining and scored 25 for the Knicks, who opened the second round with the type of close finish that their first-round victory over Philadelphia was full of.

The Pacers then cut it to one, but Myles Turner was called for an offensive foul when DiVincenzo ran into him.

"I just think the way they work, they've invested a lot into this season and they put a lot into each and every day," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "So, when you make that commitment to each other, you're not going to give in, you're going to keep fighting. And that's the great fight. We know we're short-handed. So, that's our way."

Josh Hart added a playoff career-high 24 points and added 13 rebounds and eight assists.

The No. 2-seeded Knicks will host Game 2 on Wednesday.

Turner scored 23 points for the sixth-seeded Pacers, who got strong play from their bench and were in good shape to follow their first-round ouster of Milwaukee by jumping to the lead against the Knicks.

But Brunson guided New York through another tight finish, after it outscored Philadelphia by one total point over six games in the first round.

"Playing in an arena like this, having it come down to the last couple of possessions on the road in the playoffs, what more can you ask for?" Pacers guard T.J. McConnell said. "The ball didn't bounce our way. We just got to adjust and fix some things."

Brunson soundly outplayed fellow All-Star point guard Tyrese Haliburton, the NBA's assists leader who finished with six points and eight assists after being listed as questionable with back spasms.

Pascal Siakam scored 19 for Indiana and McConnell added 18, leading a bench that finished with a whopping 46-3 advantage over its New York counterparts.

The bench isn't a big priority for the Knicks, who will ride Brunson, Hart and DiVincenzo as far as they can take them.

Hart played all 48 minutes, DiVincenzo 44 and Brunson 43 1/2.

It was all enough to get the Knicks the early lead, their first in a series later than the first round since the 2000 East semifinals against Miami.

They lost Eastern Conference finals to the Pacers that year as part of their fierce playoff rivalry that began in the 1990s. The teams met three straight times from 1993-95 and again from 1998-2000 — when Thibodeau and Indiana's Rick Carlisle were assistants with their current teams.

The renewal is off to a pretty eye-pleasing start.

McConnell's basket made it 94-85 with about 10 1/2 minutes remaining and signaled an early end to what was supposed to be a rest for Brunson. He returned to spark an 8-0 run that got the Knicks right back into it, and when Indiana went back ahead 109-104 with 4:27 to go, he scored seven points in a 9-0 burst that gave New York a 113-109 lead.

The Pacers went back ahead 115-113 before Brunson tied it and DiVincenzo hit from behind the arc for the lead, just as he did in a rally to beat the 76ers last round.

"It was a little bit of like Game 2 of the last series," DiVincenzo said.

Indiana's bench—which should be an advantage for the Pacers in the series—provided a strong start to the second quarter, and a 9-0 run just before the half gave the Pacers a 55-46 advantage. Isaiah Hartenstein's heave from beyond halfcourt went in at the buzzer to make it a six-point game at the break.

The Knicks surged ahead by five with under five minutes remaining in the third but once again the Pacers got a big boost from their bench, with three baskets from McConnell and two dunks from former Knicks forward Obi Toppin—one where he put the ball between his legs first like something from a slam dunk contest. Indiana took an 87-82 lead to the fourth after Turner's 3-pointer as time expired.

Hartenstein and OG Anunoby both finished with 13 points.

Spurs' Wembanyama named NBA Rookie of the Year after record-setting season

Victor Wembanyama had a year like no rookie in NBA history.

Others scored more points, others grabbed more rebounds, others had more blocks, others made more steals. But never had there been a player who, in Year 1 of his career, posted all these averages—at least 21.4 points, 10.6 rebounds, 3.9 assists, 3.6 blocks and 1.2 steals per game.

Until now.

The long-expected result became reality on Monday, when the Spurs' star from France was announced as the unanimous winner of the NBA's Rookie of the Year award. He's the third San Antonio player to win it, joining David Robinson in 1990 and Tim Duncan in 1998—both of whom, like Wembanyama, were No. 1 overall picks and instantly anointed as centers who would lead the Spurs to greatness.

"My goals were always to help my team as best as I could and get better as the year went on," Wembanyama said from San Antonio on TNT after the award was announced on the network's NBA playoff pregame show. "I knew in order to do this I had to be individually good on the court and dominant. So, it was a huge thing for me and a big thing to get. It's always been really important and I'm glad it's finally official."

Wembanyama is the sixth player since the award debuted in the 1952-53 season to get every first-place vote. He joins Houston's Ralph Sampson (1984), Robinson (1990), the Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin (2011), Portland's Damian Lillard (2013) and Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns (2016).

Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren and Charlotte's Brandon Miller were the other finalists for the award. Wembanyama got all 99 first-place votes from a panel of reporters and broadcasters who cover the league. Holmgren got 98 of 99 second-place votes, and Miller got the other second-place vote to finish third.

Miami's Jaime Jaquez Jr. was fourth, followed by Golden State's Brandin Podziemski and Dallas' Dereck Lively II. No other rookie got a second- or third-place vote.

There had been other near-unanimous selections in recent years: Orlando's Paolo Banchero got 98 of 100 first-place votes last year, Memphis' Ja Morant got 99 of 100 in 2020, Dallas' Luka Doncic got 98 of 100 in 2019, and Philadelphia's Ben Simmons got 90 of 101 in 2018.

But voters left no doubt—Wemby was the one. And he's already working toward getting better.

"Physically, the work is never going to be done," Wembanyama said. "I've had my plan for months ready for all of my body and we're going to keep discovering new ways to get better and work on my body. For basketball, there's a lot I want to work on."

Wembanyama became the first international winner of the award since Doncic in 2019 and the fifth such winner in the last 10 seasons. Andrew Wiggins (Canada) won in 2015, Towns (Dominican Republic) won in 2016, Simmons (Australia) won in 2018 and Doncic followed the next season.

Wembanyama became just the fourth player, and first rookie, to finish a season with at least 1,500 points, 250 assists and 250 blocked shots. The others: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did it five times, Hakeem Olajuwon did it twice and Robinson did it twice. Nobody had done it since 1993-94, when Olajuwon and Robinson both had such a season.

Wheeler strikes out 11 as Phillies sweep Giants, 6-1

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Zack Wheeler struck out 11 in seven innings, Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer and Kyle Schwarber added a solo shot to help the Philadelphia Phillies complete a four-game sweep of the San Francisco Giants with a 6-1 win on Monday.

The major league-leading Phillies (25-11) won their sixth straight and have won 10 of 11 and 17 of 20 to open a three-game lead over Atlanta in the NL East.

The Phillies have also won 10 straight games at Citizens Bank Park, just two wins shy of matching the team record set in 2012. Philadelphia also set a franchise record with 11 straight wins against NL West opponents.

Harper homered for the second straight game and his eighth of the season made it 4-0 against Giants rookie Mason Black (0-1). Black made his major league debut in front of his parents, younger brother, girlfriend and scores of friends and relatives who made the trip to watch him pitch against his boyhood favorite team.

The 24-year-old Black—named the seventh-best prospect in baseball, per MLB.com—was the Giants' third-round pick in the 2021 draft out of Lehigh University. Black recorded a 1-2-3 first inning that included strikeouts of J.T. Realmuto and Harper, the latter caught looking at an 88 mph changeup.

Black gave up eight hits, five runs and three walks. He struck out four in 4 1/3 innings.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper celebrates after his three-run home run off San Francisco Giants pitcher Mason Black during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 6, 2024, in Philadelphia.

GUARDIANS 2, TIGERS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—José Ramírez hit a solo homer in the sixth inning, breaking Hall of Famer Larry Doby's franchise record with his 87th career go-ahead blast and lifting Cleveland to a win over Detroit.

Ramírez's drive off starter Jack Flaherty (0-2) hit the foul pole in right field, snapping a 1-all tie that had stood since the first. The Guardians have the second-best record in the American League at 23-12.

Riley Greene homered on the first pitch of the game for Detroit, which lost its fourth straight. The shot off Triston McKenzie was Greene's second leadoff homer of the season and the third of his three-year career.

Nick Sandlin (3-0) worked 1 1/3 innings for the win and Emmanuel Clase earned his 11th save, moving into a four-way tie for the most in the majors.

PIRATES 4, ANGELS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Edward Olivares hit his first career grand slam and Mitch Keller pitched a five-hitter to lead Pittsburgh to a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Olivares' slam came off Tyler Anderson in the third inning to break a scoreless tie as the Pirates went on to their third consecutive victory following a five-game losing streak. The Angels lost for the 14th time in 17 games.

The Pirates loaded the bases with no outs in the third as Andrew McCutchen and Ke'Bryan Hayes sandwiched walks around Bryan Reynolds' double. One out later, Olivares hit a 424-foot drive into the left-field bleachers.

Keller (3-3) allowed only one run on Zach Neto's solo shot in the fifth inning and threw 109 pitches in his second career complete game. He struck out five and walked one while getting 14 outs on ground balls in a game that lasted just 1:55.

RAYS 8, WHITE SOX 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jonny DeLuca continued his hot stretch with a homer and four RBIs, and Tampa Bay beat Mike Clevinger and the Chicago White Sox for their fourth consecutive win.

DeLuca has driven in 10 runs in four games after being sidelined with a broken right hand all season.

DeLuca had a two-run single in a three-run second against Clevinger, and hit a two-run drive off Jared Shuster during a three-run fifth that made it 7-2.

Clevinger (0-1) was recalled from Triple-A Charlotte before the game, and allowed four runs, six hits and four walks without a strikeout over two-plus innings in his season debut.

Clevinger got a late start this season after finalizing a $3 million, one-year contract on April 4. He went 9-9 with a 3.77 ERA and two complete games in 24 starts with the White Sox last season before becoming a free agent.

Tommy Pham hit a two-run homer for the AL-worst White Sox (8-27), who had won two in a row and five of nine. Chicago swept a three-game home series with the Rays April 26-28.

ROYALS 3, BREWERS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Michael Massey homered and Maikel Garcia singled in two runs in a three-run seventh inning as Kansas City rallied past Milwaukee.

After the Royals did next to nothing against Milwaukee starter Bryse Wilson, who allowed one hit and struck out six in six scoreless innings, they broke through in the seventh against the Brewers' bullpen.

Massey greeted Jared Koenig (2-1) with a 412-foot homer to right-center. Koenig was lifted with one out after a walk and a hit batsman, and Garcia hit a bases-loaded single up the middle against Elvis Peguero.

Cole Ragans allowed two runs on two hits in six innings for the Royals, striking out eight. Nick Anderson (2-1) pitched a scoreless seventh. Tyler Duffey and Will Smith got through the eighth—helped by catcher Salvador Perez, who threw out Jackson Chourio trying to steal third—and Chris Stratton worked the ninth for his second save.

Gary Sánchez hit a two-run homer in the fourth for the Brewers, taking advantage of a strong southerly wind. He got a 2-1 fastball up into the air and it landed 427 feet away in the seats in left-center.

TWINS 3, MARINERS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Simeon Woods Richardson struck out a career-high eight in six shutout innings of one-hit ball, and Minnesota scored twice in the seventh to beat Seattle Mariners in the opener of their four-game series.

Minnesota rebounded quickly after its 12-game winning streak was snapped Sunday with a 9-2 loss to Boston.

Woods Richardson issued just one walk. He struck out five of the first six batters he faced and had seven strikeouts through three innings. The only hit he permitted was a leadoff single by Mitch Garver in the third.

Seattle loaded the bases with nobody out in the seventh but pushed across only one run against reliever Griffin Jax (3-2). Garver's sacrifice fly plated Jorge Polanco to tie it 1-all before Luke Raley struck out to end the threat.

Seattle starter Luis Castillo (3-5) went 6 2/3 innings and struck out seven. He allowed three earned runs.

PADRES 6, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Yu Darvish pitched five scoreless innings, Luis Campusano drove in three runs and the San Diego beat the Chicago Cubs.

Darvish (2-1) allowed three hits, struck out five and walked one in his second straight win. The Japanese right-hander, who played for Chicago for three seasons before he was traded to San Diego in December 2020, also tossed five shutout innings in a 6-4 victory against Cincinnati last week.

Campusano, Xander Bogaerts, Jake Cronenworth and Donovan Solano each had two hits as the Padres won for the fifth time in six games. Robert Suarez got five outs for his 11th save in 11 opportunities.

Christopher Morel and Yan Gomes homered for the Cubs, who dropped to 12-5 at Wrigley Field this season. Mike Tauchman had two hits and scored a run.

METS 4, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Brandon Nimmo hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning that sent the New York Mets to a 4-3 victory over St. Louis.

Sean Manaea (2-1) pitched six effective innings and Edwin Díaz rebounded from a blown save Sunday as the Mets bounced back from a weekend sweep at Tampa Bay.

Iván Herrera had a two-run double for the Cardinals, who have lost five of six.

Díaz worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save in six opportunities.

Manaea allowed three runs, six hits and one walk in his first career start against the Cardinals. He became the first Mets starter to earn a win since Luis Severino beat Pittsburgh 9-1 on April 17.

Nimmo went deep off Andrew Kittredge (0-1) with one out in the seventh, putting the Mets up 4-3. New York's leadoff man finished with two hits and scored twice. He is 13 for 41 (.317) with two homers and seven RBIs over the last 11 games.

It was the first homer allowed by Kittredge this season.

RANGERS 4, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Corey Seager hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Texas rallied past Oakland.

The defending World Series champions were trailing 2-0 until Seager drilled a full-count pitch from Lucas Erceg (1-2) over the right-center wall with two outs. Texas added an insurance run in the ninth on an error by first baseman Tyler Nevin.

Kirby Yates got three outs for his sixth save.

The A's, who are leaving Oakland at the end of this season for Sacramento while they await a new stadium in Las Vegas, drew a season-low 2,895 fans at the Coliseum.

Texas has won four of five, and tied a season high with its three-game win streak. The A's have dropped two in a row after winning six straight.

DODGERS 6, MARLINS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani continued his power surge with his fourth home run in three games and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated Miami in Walker Buehler's first start in nearly two years.

Ohtani became the first big leaguer to reach 11 homers this season when he crushed an elevated fastball from Roddery Muñoz (1-1) and sent it 441 feet into the center-field netting for a two-run shot in the first inning that tied the score 2-all.

It is the eighth time in Ohtani's career he has homered in three straight games, and the fourth time he's hit four in a three-game span.

Two pitches after Ohtani's homer, Freddie Freeman followed with a solo shot to left-center, the first time the Dodgers had gone back-to-back this season.

James Outman and Teoscar Hernández also went deep as the Dodgers won their fourth straight.

Nick Gordon homered as the Marlins lost for the third time in four games on their West Coast trip.

Buehler went four innings, allowing three runs and six hits with four strikeouts. He threw 77 pitches, including 49 strikes.

McDonald's Saipan donates $3K to NMA/PSS

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan is once again a major sponsor with a $3,000 donation to the Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools PSS/McDonald's Track and Field 2023-2024 season last Friday.

Marcia Ayuyu, vice president and owner/operator of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, turned over the check to NMA president Ramon Tebuteb, NMA coach/development officer Elias Rangamar, and PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross at McDonald's Chalan Kiya.

LEIGH GASES

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb, right, NMA coach/developmental officer Elias Rangamar, second right, and Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross, left, pose with the $3,000 check donated to the Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools PSS/McDonald's Track and Field 2023-2024 season last Friday, held by McDonald's of Saipan's vice president and owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, third from left.

The elementary school 9U/12U division wrapped up their championships last Friday and Saturday, with Saipan International School crowned girls team championships, while Tinian Elementary School was named the boys team champions for the first time.

This Friday and Saturday is the 18U/14U middle school/high school championship round.

Tebuteb said in sports, partnership and community engagement are crucial for success. The longstanding partnership with McDonald's has been instrumental in supporting sports programs and positively impacting the community.

"There are really no words but to say thank you. The partnership is very crucial for the development of the athletes. But more importantly, it's the connection that we have with PSS, McDonald's, and the whole community and the positive impact it has created," said Tebuteb on their 19-year partnership with McDonald's.

With the $3,000 donation, Tebuteb said it's more than sufficient. The expenses will be split between basic expenses and what the sports director/manager sees fit. "Athletics is one of the most unique sport because unlike other sports, we need a lot of equipment. The equipment that we purchase is not cheap," he said.

Gross also emphasized the importance of the partnership and highlighted the long-term commitment of McDonald's and the positive impact on PSS Athletics Programs and students.

"We're just so very thankful for the partnerships… It's a fantastic partnership to continue to bring our community together and enjoy sports and wellness, with kids enjoying the opportunity to showcase their talents," said Gross.

CHOJU

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whole season, he said it was all "hard work. We really wanted to win from the beginning and we got it done in the end."

In their deciding game against Savemore, he said, "It was a really hard game. We didn't know if we were going to win because we're missing a bunch of players but I'm grateful that my team pulled through in the end."

For Palmes, he said that it feels great to win the regular season MVP and that it was his first time. As for his team's performance, he said, "We played well as a team together and had communication."

Sixteen teams started the season with Choju, Savemore, Yuman, Premier Builders, Stag, and Live 2 Live, including Unity Trade, Best Deal, Bourbon Bar & Cafe, Tan Holdings, Kagbros, Tax Pro/Triple L, Long Shot, Elite Force, Lamesa Kusina, and Napa Auto Parts.

TINIAN

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received gold in the 9U boys softball throw with a distance of 31.13m. Second went to SVES' Raynold Saka at 29.98m, and third was GTC's Oshean Garde with a distance of 29.42.

Joaquin Adriano gave TES another gold in the 12U boys softball throw with a distance of 47.53m. Second was teammate Manuel Cruz who threw a 41.67m distance, and third went to WSR's Salman Kamal at 36.92m.

In the 9U 100m race, Vicente came in third with a time of 16.37 seconds. First place went to KagES' Davirey Indalecio at 15.64 seconds, and second went to KobES' Patrick Mansfield at 15.72 seconds.

Francisco Moses bagged bronze in the 1,500m 12U division with his time of 6:13.86. First was GCA's Beau Bauer at 5:49.68, and second went to GTC's Orion Garde at 5:50.79.

Then in the 4x100m relay, the Colts galloped into second place with a time of 1:01.98. First place went to KagES at 1:00.42, and third was KobES at 1:04.34.

Last Friday, the Colts' 4x400m relay team sprinted to first place with a time of 5:20.49; second was KobES at 5:26.90, and third was SVES at 5:28.32.

Another gold finish for the Colts was in the 9U long jump by Joedric Torres with his jump of 3.53m. Second was OES' D.J. Taisakan at 3.44m, and third was TES' Xiang Huang at 3.18m.

In the 12U 800m, Adriano secured the second spot with a time of 2:46.44. First place was SVES' Jeffrey Pangelinan at 2:42.35, and a close third place went to Orion at 2:46.93.

Moses took home silver with his finish of 31.37 seconds in the 12U 200m event. First went to Pangelinan at 30.41 seconds, and third place by a breath was KagES' Ishmael Bhuiyan at 31.41 seconds.

Then, Moses hauled in another silver in the 12U long jump with a mark of 3.84m. First was KagES' Benaiah Murphy at 3.99m, and third was SIS' Jake Duenas with 3.66m.

In the boys 9U roster were Nathaniel Cruz, Noah Sablan, Damian Villagomez, Vicente Cruz, Zaire Villagomez, Xiang Huang, and Joedric Torres.

The 12U roster was made up of Joaquin Adriano, Francisco Moses, Miran Tamang, Manuel Cruz Jr., Trayvan Manglona, and Jade Almonte.

Moses, a 5th grader, said that the season was "very good and awesome." He competed in six events and said his favorites were the 200m and 400m. He then thanked his coaches, grandma, and mom for the motivation.

Colts coaches Eptes and Chavelyn Epity said their team "worked very hard through rain or shine, and we're very proud of them."

Despite not having a track and field to train on, they still train three times a week on their school's campus. Come competition days on Saipan, the coaches said that there's a big difference, but that "these guys pulled through."

On how it felt taking it all home this season, Moses said, "it feels good because last year, we didn't place at all."

This tournament concludes the elementary school 2023-2024 sports season.

This Friday and Saturday is the 18U/14U middle school/high school PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2023-2024 championships round.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

College-bound Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members Kean Pajarillaga, second from right, and Isaiah Aleksenko, third from right, pose with Tsunami Saipan teammates following a recent practice session.

KEAN

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a lot of aid and I feel like the school is a great fit for me. Also, I would be able to continue swimming in this college. I would be swimming in a bigger pool, while also competing against different schools in multiple competitions, and sometimes in different states. I plan to major in Chemistry. Other schools I considered before choosing this college was Denison University, Hamilton College, and a few others," Pajarillaga told *Saipan Tribune*.

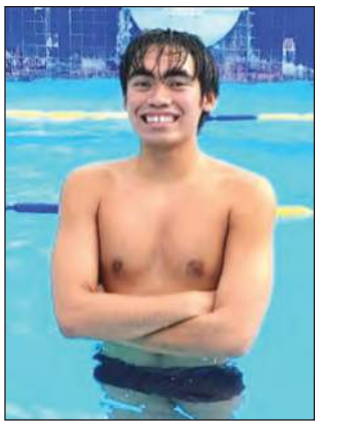
Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiroyuki Kimura congratulated Pajarillaga for deciding to continue competitive swimming after high school.

"As his coach for many years, I couldn't be happier that Kean has decided his college. As was the case with Juhn Tenorio last year, I truly respect and proud of my swimmers got accepted from college in spite of putting all into swimming and continuing to work hard until the end without stopping practice. Kean is working as Tsunami Saipan's vice-captain, set a CNMI age group record, and has participated in international meet as a representative of his country, I believe it's really admirable," he said.

Kimura said he has high hopes that his ward will be able to reach his full potential in swimming at Macalester College.

"Kean will be a member of the swim team in college and will continue to be a competitive swimmer in the U.S. college swimming scene. I heard from friends in the states that Kean's coach in college is an excellent swimming coach. I also heard that the team is a very nice team. His target in college swimming is get on the roster. I think his next goal is to participate in the state championships and so on, after that, Kean's ultimate goal is to compete in the U.S. National Collegiate Championship! I'm already excited for Kean's future!" he said.

Macalester College swimming and diving head coach Kyllian Griffin is extremely excited to add Pajarillaga to the men's team roster.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kean Pajarillaga will be taking engineering at Macalester College.

"He joins six other men's team recruits, and eight other women's team recruits in the incoming class (Macalester College Class of 2028). His specialty in the backstroke events will be extremely helpful for our team, and we're excited about his ability to sprint freestyle, too. Our team is extremely proud of our geographic diversity: as of right now, we have 57 swimmers and divers from 25 different states (and U.S, territories). We're thrilled to add Saipan and the Northern Mariana Islands to our list!" he said.

Edwards, Towns lead Wolves' blitz for 2-0 series lead over champion Nuggets

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Tinian wins first boys team champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

For the first time, Tinian Elementary School Colts capped the PSS-McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 season with the boys team championship after the finals last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The Colts sported the most points with 114 from 18 events scored. Second went to Kagman Elementary School with 92 points; last season's champion Koblerville Elementary School was third with 81; San Vicente Elementary School had 78 points; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School collected 50; Saipan International School came up with 44; Oleai Elementary School racked up 38; William S. Reyes Elementary School and Garapan Elementary School were at 19 each; Grace Christian Academy had 15; and Brilliant Star School was at 8 points.

Last Saturday, Vicente Cruz

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LEIGH GASES

A Tinian Elementary School softball throwing event participant lets one fly during the sofbtall throw finals in the PSS-McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LEIGH GASES

Tinian Elementary School Colts 9U and 12U boys teams pose for a group photo with their coaches Eptes Epity, fourth left, and Chavelyn Epity, back center, during the awards ceremony of the PSS-McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

Kean to swim for Macalester College

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kean Pajarillaha poses with Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center head coach Hiroyuki Kimura, right, and Tsunami Saipan manager Yuko Kimura after a recent training session.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Kean Pajarillaga will continue his education at Macalester College, a private liberal arts college in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The 17-year-old Grace Christian Academy graduate will also be part of the college's swimming team. Macalester College competes in the NCAA Division III Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and are known as the Scots.

"I chose to attend Macalester College and it is not a full ride scholarship. However, they gave around 90% grants and scholarships. I chose this college because I was given

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Choju's Gerald, Jay Art are Season 2 MVPs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Gerald Mamis and Jay Art Palmes of champion team Choju were most valuable player awardees in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2's Finals MVP Gerald Mamis from championship team Choju poses with his awards after the ceremony last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

LEIGH GASES

The Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2's "Mythical 5" pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony after the finals between Choju and Savemore last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai. From right is Best Center Justine Enano, Best Guard Carl Aldan, Best Forward Nikko Mejarito, Best Guard/regular season MVP Jay Art Palmes, and Best Forward Julius Domine.

During the awards ceremony after the championship showdown between Choju and second place Savemore, Mamis was crowned the finals MVP, while Palmes was the regular season MVP.

Palmes was also bestowed the Best Guard award in the "Mythical 5" awards.

With Palmes as Best Guard was Yuman's Carl Aldan; Best Forward was Nikko Mejarito and Savemores' Julius Domine; and the Best Center was Yuman's Justine Enano.

The Best Coach award went to Choju's Matt Iguel.

The Sportsmanship awards went to Live 2 Live and Stag; third place went to Yuman, while fourth place was Premier Builders.

Mamis, who put up 9 points all from triples in the last championship game, said he was happy and grateful for the MVP award. "I feel happy that I got it, but it was really a team effort. I didn't do this by myself. I did everything I could and I'm happy that I got it," he said.

As for their team's undefeated run throughout the

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